

11. DECEMBER  
COLIN  
Japan empire  
has begun to  
peak again



# Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation

جورдан تايمز يومية سياسية تنشر باللغتين العربية والإنجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحافية الأردنية (الرأي)

What has Amman got  
apart from canals?

"Schiphol and  
22 bridges to UK & Europe"

Now KLM flies 5 times a week from Amman  
The Reliable Airline KLM  
Royal Dutch Airlines

Volume 18 Number 5486

AMMAN MONDAY, DECEMBER 13, 1993, JUMADA AL THANI 29, 1414

Price: 150 Fils

## German team to Iraq to free jailed citizen

AMMAN (R) — A leading German politician left for Baghdad Sunday to try and win the freedom of German student Kai Sondermann jailed for illegal entry into Iraq. Official sources said Hans-Jürgen Wischinskiy, 71, a prominent member of the German Socialist Party known for his close ties with Arab countries, left for Baghdad earlier in the day with Mr. Sondermann's mother and father.

## UNRWA staff to stage sit-in.

AMMAN (I.T.) — Staff committee of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) will stage a 36-hour sit-in at UNRWA headquarters Monday and Tuesday, according to Odeh Rahal, spokesman for the committee. Mr. Rahal said the sit-in is in protest against UNRWA's refusal to meet staff demands for salary increases, improvement of conditions of services, including a reconsideration of the pension and annual leave schemes.

## Hungarian Premier Antall dies at 61

BUDAPEST (R) — Prime Minister József Antall, leader of Hungary's first post-communist government, died in hospital Sunday after losing a long fight against cancer, government spokeswoman Judit Juhász told Reuters. Mr. Antall, 61, was admitted to hospital three weeks ago for treatment of cancer that had spread from his lymphatic system to other internal organs. His condition had deteriorated steadily over the past few days.

## Hizbullah activist killed in explosion

BAALBEK (AP) — An activist of the Hizbullah party was killed and another seriously wounded Sunday in a car-bomb explosion, police reported. They said the blast at 6 p.m. (1600 GMT) occurred in the village of Nabha, 20 kilometres northwest of the ancient city of Baalbek, a traditional Hizbullah stronghold in east Lebanon's Bekaa Valley. One victim, Fuad Amhaz, died instantaneously. His cousin, Imad Amhaz, was rushed to a Baalbek hospital that was quickly ringed by party comrades and relatives of the powerful Amhaz clan.



Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin (right), meets in Cairo Sunday (AFP photo)

## Israel, PLO extend autonomy deadline

## Rabin-Arafat summit fails to break deadlock; two to meet again in 10 days

CAIRO (Agencies) — Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) leader Yasser Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin on Sunday failed in a last-minute bid to meet a deadline for agreement on launching Palestinian self-rule and decided to meet again in 10 days.

Mr. Rabin said after two hours of talks with Mr. Arafat: "We decided to give ourselves a certain time to rethink and will meet again in 10 days. It may be nine or 11, here in Cairo."

The two had tried to strike a deal to meet Monday's deadline for implementation of the Sept. 13 PLO-Israel accord for Palestinian autonomy in the West Bank town of Jenicho and the Gaza Strip.

Mr. Rabin had in the last two weeks hinted at a delay, but Mr. Arafat had described the Monday deadline as sacred.

"I believe it is better to negotiate" a better accord, Mr. Rabin said.

Negotiations on implementing autonomy would continue in Paris on the economic aspects and in El Arish, in Egypt, on the transfer of power, Mr. Rabin said.

The major problems are

who will control ceasefire lines between the territories and Jordan and the territories and Egypt, the control of bridges and crossing points and the size of the Jenicho area," Mr. Rabin told a Cairo press conference in Hebrew.

"There are the main points on which we have not reached agreement," he said.

"These are different approaches on how to solve these problems."

"We will meet again in Egypt to give a chance for informal contacts and study the outstanding questions," Mr. Rabin said.

Mr. Arafat looked despondent as he told a separate news conference that both sides were still committed to the outline peace accord, "but we have some differences over some points and we agreed to have another meeting within the next 10 days."

PLO officials, who had argued that Israel must keep to the withdrawal timetable or risk even more Palestinians turning against the peace accord, looked angry and upset after the meeting.

Mr. Arafat, looking tired and drawn, told the press conference: "We had an important meeting."

(Continued on page 2)

## Arafat under Palestinian pressure to sign economic accord with Jordan

### Jordan may have to adopt self-protective measures

By Lami K. Andoni  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

PALESTINE Liberation Organisation (PLO) leader Yasser Arafat's failure to sign a draft economic agreement with Jordan during his short visit to Amman last week is triggering serious political crisis that could undermine Jordan-PLO coordination and relations.

In press statements, Jordanian officials have implied that if Mr. Arafat refuses to sign Jordan might have to take unilateral steps to protect itself.

Jordan's main concern is that the PLO would seek an agreement with Israel that could deal a serious blow to the Jordanian dinar and threaten the Kingdom's financial stability.

PLO officials contacted in Tunis said that they hope that the Jordanian government would be patient with the PLO, especially since Mr. Arafat was expected to come under greater internal pressure to reach agreement with Jordan, following his meeting Sunday with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin.

The recent crisis between Jordan and the PLO has given rise to fears within the PLO and among Jordanians that the lack of coordination between the two sides would only make all Arab parties

involved, individually, more vulnerable to Israeli terms as each will be compelled to accommodate the Jewish state to protect its own interests.

Many PLO officials are disgruntled by Mr. Arafat's evasive attitude, especially that they believe the projected agreement with Jordan is crucial for disengaging the economy of the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip from that of Israel.

But Mr. Arafat himself, according to PLO officials, is convinced that it is premature to sign the agreement in the belief that it could restrict his margin of manoeuvrability in his main priority is to attain international, Arab and Israeli recognition of Palestinian nationhood.

Mr. Arafat is said to have explained to PLO Executive Committee members prior to his arrival in Amman last week that he needed to first improve his position vis-à-vis Israel and the Western donors before signing the agreement with Jordan.

But the draft agreement, under which the Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) will regulate monetary policies in the future Palestinian entity that will adopt Jordanian currency, has not been discussed in detail or ratified by the PLO Executive Committee.

The PLO leader has been

seeking an Israeli approval of a Palestinian central bank and an independent Palestinian currency to ensure Palestinian sovereignty.

In fact Mr. Arafat claims, according to PLO officials, that Ahmad Qouriea was not authorised to reach agreement with Jordan in the first place.

The Executive Committee, the officials say, was also not aware of Mr. Qouriea's mission last September but that was mainly due to the declining role of that top-level body as Mr. Arafat consolidated his one-man approach.

In November Mr. Arafat sent the head of the PLO Economic Department, Mohamad Zuhdi Al Nashashibi, to modify the basic principles reached between Mr. Qouriea and minister of state for the Prime Ministry affairs, Jawad Al Anani. The mission of Mr. Nashashibi was viewed as a tactic by Mr. Arafat to procrastinate until his position with Israel was clarified.

Following his return to Tunis, Mr. Nashashibi gave an interview to Jordanian evening daily, Akher Khabar, in which he also disclosed the details of what was termed as the final draft agreement emphasising the need to give priority to Jordan over Israel.

Mr. Arafat's hesitation has provoked serious criticism by his colleagues for ignoring the importance of Jordanian-Palestinian relations.

(Continued on page 5)

## Gammoh presents budget to deputies

### Revenues and aid to cover JD 1.487b allocations

By Ayman Al Safadi  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The government Sunday presented the Lower House of Parliament with what Finance Minister Sami Gammoh described as the first "deficit-free" budget in the history of Jordan.

The general revenue, including grants and foreign aid, of JD 156 million, will completely finance the JD 1.4871 million draft budget, Mr. Gammoh told the House in his budget speech.

The budget projects an estimated 8.7 per cent in general revenues over the reestimated revenues of 1993, with local revenues covering about 86 per cent of the total capital and current expenditures, he said.

Mr. Gammoh said the total expenditure was estimated at JD 1.487 million, reflecting an estimated increase of 11 per cent over the reestimation of 1993 expenditure.

An estimated JD 1.128.4 million constitute current expenditure, compared to the reestimated JD 1.049.3 million current expenditure of 1993, he said. He estimated capital expenditure at JD 357.7, compared to JD 292 million in reestimated expenditure in 1993.

Spending on defence and internal security was estimated at JD 378.1 million, financial management and subsidies to state institutions, basic food goods and debt servicing were estimated at JD 494.1 million and the economic development services were put at JD 249 million.

The Israeli withdrawal from Gaza and Jenicho is the first stage in a five-year interim period of self-rule for the Palestinians during which they are to negotiate a permanent peace settlement with the Jewish state.

But many people on both sides condemn the accord as a betrayal, particularly the 120,000 Jewish settlers living in the occupied territories and Palestinian hardliners who dismiss any possibility of peace with Israel.

Since the secretly-negotiated accord was made public, 38 Palestinians and 18 Israelis have been killed, several in revenge attacks by settlers and

sector JD 16.4 million, the social services and education sector JD 252.4 million and the cultural, youth, telecommunication and transportation sectors JD 81.1 million.

Domestic and foreign debt servicing was estimated at JD 300.1 million, compared with the reestimated JD 281.2 million for 1993.

About JD 66 million will be earmarked as an emergency budget to finance development and capital projects if financing was made available through grants, foreign aid or soft loans.

An estimated JD 495 million expenditure by public institutions is added to the government spending, bringing its total value to about JD 2 billion or 50 per cent of the estimated gross domestic product (GDP) for 1994.

Mr. Gammoh told the House that the government aims at achieving the following economic goals in 1994:

1. Achieving a growth of no less than 5.5 per cent in fixed prices in the GDP.

2. Reducing the general consumption in relation to the GDP from 99.3 per cent in 1993 to 97.8 per cent.

3. Lowering the deficit in the balance of payment as a percentage of the GDP from 10.4 per cent in 1993 to 7.2 per cent.

4. Reducing the budget deficit after excluding the grants from 6.4 per cent of the GDP in 1993 to 5.3 per cent.

5. Keeping inflation at 4.5 per cent.

6. Maintaining the stability of the currency and building the country's foreign exchange reserves.

7. Improving the balance of

payment through promoting exports, increasing the local production and encouraging export-oriented industries.

8. Decreasing foreign indebtedness.

9. Improving the quality of life through effectively dealing with poverty and unemployment.

Mr. Gammoh added that the continuation of the embargo on Aqaba contributed to the negative growth of 2.7 per cent expected in the mining sector because of lower international prices, increased competition and decreased international consumption of phosphates and fertilisers.

He said, however, that a negative growth of 2.7 per cent is expected in the mining sector because of lower international prices, increased competition and decreased international consumption of phosphates and fertilisers.

Mr. Gammoh added that the continuation of the embargo on Aqaba contributed to the negative growth of these industries because of the higher costs of transportation it led to.

The mining industries contribute 12.6 per cent of the GDP with the private sector contributing only five per cent, he said, calling on the private sector to increase its contribution to productive industries.

The minister said the local consumption in relation to the GDP decreased by about three per cent, compared to 1992.

This is a very positive indicator," he said.

Pointing that the volume of trade was stable in comparison with 1993, Mr. Gammoh said that a positive change in the kind of goods exchanged had occurred. The ratio of consumption goods imported in 1993 dropped to 38 per cent from 41 per cent in 1992.

The balance of services is expected to achieve a surplus of \$1.6 billion in 1993, registering an increase of 10.5 per cent over 1992, said Mr. Gammoh.

He attributed the increase to the improvement in the performance of the tourism sector and increased remittances from Jordanian expatriates.

He said the increase is expected to bring the deficit in the current account down to 10 per cent from 15 per cent in 1992.

(Continued on page 5)

# SAFEWAY

## OWNERS, MANAGEMENT & STAFF

Extend their heartfelt wishes  
for the safety and well-being  
of fellow citizens and shoppers .

# SAFEWAY

## MANAGEMENT

Also extend gratitude to all  
well-wishing friends, colleagues and  
suppliers who particularly expressed  
their sympathies and concern for  
the safety of shoppers and staff .

# Middle East News

JORDAN TIMES, MONDAY, DECEMBER 13, 1993

## Qatar wants balanced relations with Iraq

DUBAI (R) — Qatar said a visit to Baghdad by its deputy chief of staff was a private one but stressed its need for what he called balanced ties with Iraq.

Qatar's Foreign Affairs Minister Sheikh Hamad Ben Jassim Ben Jabr Al Thani told the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) in an interview that the Baghdad visit was not part of "Qatar's dealings with Iraq."

Iraqi President Saddam Hussein met the Qatari officer, Sheikh Mohammad Ben Fahd Ben Mohammad Al Thani, earlier this month and Iraqi newspapers said he was on an official visit.

Sheikh Hamad told the BBC in the interview broadcast on Saturday, "That visit was not an official one... and the meeting was upon an initiative by the Iraqi president," the Qatar News Agency reported.

But the minister stressed that although his country fought against Iraq during the 1991 Gulf war and fully abides by United Nations-imposed sanctions on Iraq, Doha favoured "balanced and clear ties" with Baghdad.

We said Doha believes that Baghdad's ties with the countries which fought against it in the war should be restored to their earlier levels once Iraq met all Gulf war-related U.N. resolutions.

But Arab diplomats say Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states, mainly Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, are against any contacts with Iraq as long as President Saddam remains in power.

Sheikh Hamad also said regional border disputes should be resolved through dialogue or international arbitration.

Qatar almost boycotted last year's annual GCC summit to protest a border clash with Saudi Arabia last September but attended at the last minute when Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak stepped in to mediate between the two neighbours.



Israeli right-wing demonstrators burn posters from the "Peace Now" movement as well as one of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin with a Molotov cocktail. (AFP photo)

## Israeli army morale drops as withdrawal approaches

By Dan Perry  
The Associated Press

TEL AVIV — With the approach of military withdrawal, Israeli soldiers in the occupied Gaza Strip see their duty as both pointless and more dangerous.

"We really feel like cannon fodder this time," said Itzik Zalman, a 31-year-old paratroop reservist, after ending a month-long tour at the Jabalya refugee camp in the northern Gaza Strip.

It was his unit's fifth stint in the occupied territories since the Palestinian uprising began in 1987 and third in Jabalya, the teeming refugee camp that is home to some of the most hardened underground leaders.

Hanan Gilad, another member of the unit, said the impending withdrawal has sapped the motivation of soldiers to maintain control.

In the early days of the uprising soldiers worried about losing the test of will if they failed to break up protests in Jabalya, Gilad said.

"But now, we know there is no significance to what we are doing... except for sticking to some timetable and holding on to the camp for another month or two," he said. "No one wants to be the last one hurt there."

Army regulars, who need

special permission to speak to reporters, have received instructions in recent weeks to avoid interviews, army sources said. But comments by reservists, who can speak freely after returning to civilian life, indicated a widespread morale problem in Gaza.

According to the Sept. 13 peace accord with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), Israel is to begin withdrawing on Monday from Gaza, where 800,000 Palestinians live, and from Jericho in the West Bank.

Security arrangements are incomplete, however, and both sides have hinted at a

frustration is worst among regular soldiers aged 18 to 21, who are "dying to react" but have strict orders intended to prevent a cycle of violence.

Noam Hadar, 32 and just back from a month in Gaza, said morale is "at its lowest ever."

Reuven Gal, director of the independent Israel Center for Military Studies, said research indicates soldiers may have serious emotional scars.

Gil, a former chief army psychologist, said many soldiers emerged from wars "with more appreciation for life and they discovered their ability to stand up to difficult situations," but that the intifada left soldiers "burned out and desperate."

Early fears that participation in violence in the territories would make young Israelis more violent at home did not materialise, Gal said.

Instead, he added, exposure to the complex, explosive situation in the occupied lands appeared to have a moderating effect.

The uncertainty, combined with opposition to the accord by hardliners, has made the last week violent.

Danny Ben-Tal, a 37-year-old journalist, said one of strongest feelings among soldiers is that, just as camp patrols are becoming pointless, they become the most dangerous. The principal weapons used to be stones, but now militants have automatic weapons.

"This was the first time in the intifada we were constantly facing live ammunition," he said. "You're scared for your life, man."

Ben-Tal said a firebomb

missed him by two metres. He said he saw a soldier shot in the thigh and his company commander hospitalised with head injuries after being stoned while chasing several armed men.

Friction is worst among regular soldiers aged 18 to 21, who are "dying to react" but have strict orders intended to prevent a cycle of violence.

Noam Hadar, 32 and just back from a month in Gaza, said morale is "at its lowest ever."

Reuven Gal, director of the independent Israel Center for Military Studies, said research indicates soldiers may have serious emotional scars.

Gil, a former chief army psychologist, said many soldiers emerged from wars "with more appreciation for life and they discovered their ability to stand up to difficult situations," but that the intifada left soldiers "burned out and desperate."

Early fears that participation in violence in the territories would make young Israelis more violent at home did not materialise, Gal said.

Instead, he added, exposure to the complex, explosive situation in the occupied lands appeared to have a moderating effect.

The uncertainty, combined with opposition to the accord by hardliners, has made the last week violent.

Danny Ben-Tal, a 37-year-old journalist, said one of strongest feelings among soldiers is that, just as camp patrols are becoming pointless, they become the most dangerous. The principal weapons used to be stones, but now militants have automatic weapons.

"This was the first time in the intifada we were constantly facing live ammunition," he said. "You're scared for your life, man."

Ben-Tal said a firebomb

missed him by two metres. He said he saw a soldier shot in the thigh and his company commander hospitalised with head injuries after being stoned while chasing several armed men.

Friction is worst among regular soldiers aged 18 to 21, who are "dying to react" but have strict orders intended to prevent a cycle of violence.

Noam Hadar, 32 and just back from a month in Gaza, said morale is "at its lowest ever."

Reuven Gal, director of the independent Israel Center for Military Studies, said research indicates soldiers may have serious emotional scars.

Gil, a former chief army psychologist, said many soldiers emerged from wars "with more appreciation for life and they discovered their ability to stand up to difficult situations," but that the intifada left soldiers "burned out and desperate."

Early fears that participation in violence in the territories would make young Israelis more violent at home did not materialise, Gal said.

Instead, he added, exposure to the complex, explosive situation in the occupied lands appeared to have a moderating effect.

The uncertainty, combined with opposition to the accord by hardliners, has made the last week violent.

Danny Ben-Tal, a 37-year-old journalist, said one of strongest feelings among soldiers is that, just as camp patrols are becoming pointless, they become the most dangerous. The principal weapons used to be stones, but now militants have automatic weapons.

"This was the first time in the intifada we were constantly facing live ammunition," he said. "You're scared for your life, man."

Ben-Tal said a firebomb

missed him by two metres. He said he saw a soldier shot in the thigh and his company commander hospitalised with head injuries after being stoned while chasing several armed men.

Friction is worst among regular soldiers aged 18 to 21, who are "dying to react" but have strict orders intended to prevent a cycle of violence.

Noam Hadar, 32 and just back from a month in Gaza, said morale is "at its lowest ever."

Reuven Gal, director of the independent Israel Center for Military Studies, said research indicates soldiers may have serious emotional scars.

Gil, a former chief army psychologist, said many soldiers emerged from wars "with more appreciation for life and they discovered their ability to stand up to difficult situations," but that the intifada left soldiers "burned out and desperate."

Early fears that participation in violence in the territories would make young Israelis more violent at home did not materialise, Gal said.

Instead, he added, exposure to the complex, explosive situation in the occupied lands appeared to have a moderating effect.

The uncertainty, combined with opposition to the accord by hardliners, has made the last week violent.

Danny Ben-Tal, a 37-year-old journalist, said one of strongest feelings among soldiers is that, just as camp patrols are becoming pointless, they become the most dangerous. The principal weapons used to be stones, but now militants have automatic weapons.

"This was the first time in the intifada we were constantly facing live ammunition," he said. "You're scared for your life, man."

Ben-Tal said a firebomb

missed him by two metres. He said he saw a soldier shot in the thigh and his company commander hospitalised with head injuries after being stoned while chasing several armed men.

Friction is worst among regular soldiers aged 18 to 21, who are "dying to react" but have strict orders intended to prevent a cycle of violence.

Noam Hadar, 32 and just back from a month in Gaza, said morale is "at its lowest ever."

Reuven Gal, director of the independent Israel Center for Military Studies, said research indicates soldiers may have serious emotional scars.

Gil, a former chief army psychologist, said many soldiers emerged from wars "with more appreciation for life and they discovered their ability to stand up to difficult situations," but that the intifada left soldiers "burned out and desperate."

Early fears that participation in violence in the territories would make young Israelis more violent at home did not materialise, Gal said.

Instead, he added, exposure to the complex, explosive situation in the occupied lands appeared to have a moderating effect.

The uncertainty, combined with opposition to the accord by hardliners, has made the last week violent.

Danny Ben-Tal, a 37-year-old journalist, said one of strongest feelings among soldiers is that, just as camp patrols are becoming pointless, they become the most dangerous. The principal weapons used to be stones, but now militants have automatic weapons.

"This was the first time in the intifada we were constantly facing live ammunition," he said. "You're scared for your life, man."

Ben-Tal said a firebomb

missed him by two metres. He said he saw a soldier shot in the thigh and his company commander hospitalised with head injuries after being stoned while chasing several armed men.

Friction is worst among regular soldiers aged 18 to 21, who are "dying to react" but have strict orders intended to prevent a cycle of violence.

Noam Hadar, 32 and just back from a month in Gaza, said morale is "at its lowest ever."

Reuven Gal, director of the independent Israel Center for Military Studies, said research indicates soldiers may have serious emotional scars.

Gil, a former chief army psychologist, said many soldiers emerged from wars "with more appreciation for life and they discovered their ability to stand up to difficult situations," but that the intifada left soldiers "burned out and desperate."

Early fears that participation in violence in the territories would make young Israelis more violent at home did not materialise, Gal said.

Instead, he added, exposure to the complex, explosive situation in the occupied lands appeared to have a moderating effect.

The uncertainty, combined with opposition to the accord by hardliners, has made the last week violent.

Danny Ben-Tal, a 37-year-old journalist, said one of strongest feelings among soldiers is that, just as camp patrols are becoming pointless, they become the most dangerous. The principal weapons used to be stones, but now militants have automatic weapons.

"This was the first time in the intifada we were constantly facing live ammunition," he said. "You're scared for your life, man."

Ben-Tal said a firebomb

missed him by two metres. He said he saw a soldier shot in the thigh and his company commander hospitalised with head injuries after being stoned while chasing several armed men.

Friction is worst among regular soldiers aged 18 to 21, who are "dying to react" but have strict orders intended to prevent a cycle of violence.

Noam Hadar, 32 and just back from a month in Gaza, said morale is "at its lowest ever."

Reuven Gal, director of the independent Israel Center for Military Studies, said research indicates soldiers may have serious emotional scars.

Gil, a former chief army psychologist, said many soldiers emerged from wars "with more appreciation for life and they discovered their ability to stand up to difficult situations," but that the intifada left soldiers "burned out and desperate."

Early fears that participation in violence in the territories would make young Israelis more violent at home did not materialise, Gal said.

Instead, he added, exposure to the complex, explosive situation in the occupied lands appeared to have a moderating effect.

The uncertainty, combined with opposition to the accord by hardliners, has made the last week violent.

Danny Ben-Tal, a 37-year-old journalist, said one of strongest feelings among soldiers is that, just as camp patrols are becoming pointless, they become the most dangerous. The principal weapons used to be stones, but now militants have automatic weapons.

"This was the first time in the intifada we were constantly facing live ammunition," he said. "You're scared for your life, man."

Ben-Tal said a firebomb

missed him by two metres. He said he saw a soldier shot in the thigh and his company commander hospitalised with head injuries after being stoned while chasing several armed men.

Friction is worst among regular soldiers aged 18 to 21, who are "dying to react" but have strict orders intended to prevent a cycle of violence.

Noam Hadar, 32 and just back from a month in Gaza, said morale is "at its lowest ever."

Reuven Gal, director of the independent Israel Center for Military Studies, said research indicates soldiers may have serious emotional scars.

Gil, a former chief army psychologist, said many soldiers emerged from wars "with more appreciation for life and they discovered their ability to stand up to difficult situations," but that the intifada left soldiers "burned out and desperate."

Early fears that participation in violence in the territories would make young Israelis more violent at home did not materialise, Gal said.

Instead, he added, exposure to the complex, explosive situation in the occupied lands appeared to have a moderating effect.

The uncertainty, combined with opposition to the accord by hardliners, has made the last week violent.

Danny Ben-Tal, a 37-year-old journalist, said one of strongest feelings among soldiers is that, just as camp patrols are becoming pointless, they become the most dangerous. The principal weapons used to be stones, but now militants have automatic weapons.

"This was the first time in the intifada we were constantly facing live ammunition," he said. "You're scared for your life, man."

Ben-Tal said a firebomb

missed him by two metres. He said he saw a soldier shot in the thigh and his company commander hospitalised with head injuries after being stoned while chasing several armed men.

Friction is worst among regular soldiers aged 18 to 21, who are "dying to react" but have strict orders intended to prevent a cycle of violence.

Noam Hadar, 32 and just back from a month in Gaza, said morale is "at its lowest ever."

Reuven Gal, director of the independent Israel Center for Military Studies, said research indicates soldiers may have serious emotional scars.

Gil, a former chief army psychologist, said many soldiers emerged from wars "with more appreciation for life and they discovered their ability to stand up to difficult situations," but that the intifada left soldiers "burned out and desperate."

Early fears that participation in violence in the territories would make young Israelis more violent at home did not materialise, Gal said.

Instead, he added, exposure to the complex, explosive situation in the occupied lands appeared to have a moderating effect.

The uncertainty, combined with opposition to the accord by hardliners, has made the last week violent.

Danny Ben-Tal, a 37-year-old journalist, said one of strongest feelings among soldiers is that, just as camp patrols are becoming pointless, they become the most dangerous. The principal weapons used

## International team of democracy advocates see room for strengthening Jordan's efforts

By Suhair Obeidat  
Special to the Jordan Times

**AMMAN** — Jordanians have much to be proud of in their efforts towards democracy, but there remains room for further strengthening of the process, according to an international team of democracy advocates which recently conducted a visit to Jordan and the West Bank.

"Everyone (we met) seemed to believe that further progress towards democracy is important for securing peace and an equitable economic development," said Thomas Melia, director of the Middle East Programme at the National Democratic Institute for International Affairs.

NDI is a non-profit corporation that conducts non-partisan international programmes to help maintain and strengthen democratic institutions and includes among its ranks experts from the United States and from other countries.

According to Mr. Melia, NDI works on an inclusive, multi-party basis to exchange information about political party development, electoral processes and democratic governance.

"We are not arriving at judgements, we do this work out of curiosity and the meetings (in Amman) were conducted in a frank and relaxed manner," Mr. Melia said.

NDI maintains that its multinational approach reinforces the message that there exists no single ideal democratic system, although certain core principles are shared by all democracies.

"Although Jordan is unique and must find its own way to build democratic institutions, there are nevertheless some similarities with other countries," Mr. Melia said.

He added that "there does seem to be interest among Jordanians in learning about the transitions to democracy that are underway in other parts of the world."

### HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

#### Regent confers medal on Sheikh Ben Jazi

**AMMAN** (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Sunday conferred Jordan's Independence Medal upon Sheikh Faisal Ben Jazi in appreciation of his efforts as a member of the Lower House and his dedicated services.

#### Princess Sarvath receives Japanese volunteers

**AMMAN** (Petra) — Her Royal Highness Princess Sarvath Al Hassan Sunday received a team of volunteers from the Japanese International Cooperation Agency (JICA). The group has just completed their voluntary mission in Jordan. The team members trained students at the Young Women's Muslim Association (YWMA) in such trades as ceramics, weaving and physical education.

#### JETT puts 14 new buses into service

**AMMAN** (Petra) — Minister of Tourism and Antiquities Mohammad Adwan Sunday lauded the important role played by the Jordan Express Travel and Tourism company (JETT) in promoting tourism in Jordan. Addressing a special ceremony held at Hussein Youth City to celebrate the introduction of 14 new tourist buses to the JETT line, Dr. Adwan said that since its creation in 1973, JETT has contributed to developing the economic industry and supporting the national economy. Dr. Adwan praised the efforts of JETT staff saying that they have contributed positively to meeting the increasing demand for tourist transport. Chairman of the Board of Directors of the company Adnan Al Mufri said that adding 14 new buses to the company's fleet will enhance its ability to meet increasing demands. He said the new buses are equipped with a computer system designed to ensure comfort. With the new buses, the number of JETT tourist buses total 150. The ceremony was attended by Transport Minister Adeeb Halasa, Director general of the Antiquities Department Safwan Al Tel and senior government officials.

#### Transport minister meets with Sudanese, Syrian officials

**AMMAN** (Petra) — Transport Minister Adeeb Halasa Sunday reviewed with Director General of the Sudanese Ports Corporation Mohammad Taher scopes of bilateral cooperation. Both officials stressed the importance of exchange of expertise and field visits as means to enhance this cooperation. Mr. Halasa said the ministry is ready to sign a marine transport agreement with Sudan, adding that the agreement will serve the economies of both countries. Mr. Taher said he signed a memorandum of understanding with the Ports Corporation to organise cooperation between the two corporations in the areas of training, field visits and providing passenger services. Also Sunday Mr. Halasa reviewed with Syrian Deputy Transport Minister Ahmad Bashir Shahin bilateral relations in the transport field.

#### U.S. congressional team arrives for talks today

**AMMAN** (Petra) — A five-member U.S. congressional delegation, headed by Senator Dennis DeConcini arrives here today (Monday) on a two-day visit for talks with senior officials on the latest developments in the region, the Middle East peace process and bilateral relations.

#### Qatari education official to arrive

**AMMAN** (Petra) — Qatari Minister of Education Abdul Aziz Abdullah Al Turki Saturday arrives here on a three-day visit for talks with his Jordanian counterpart on bilateral cooperation in education. Mr. Turki and Minister of Education and Higher Education Khaled Al Oman will sign an agreement on educational cooperation. Mr. Turki's visit comes in response to an invitation extended to him by Dr. Oman.

#### Produce exports hit 25,800 tonnes

**AMMAN** (Petra) — Jordan last month exported 25,800 tonnes of vegetables and fruits worth JD 6 million mainly to Arab countries, according to a statistical bulletin issued by the Agricultural Marketing Organisation (AMO) Sunday. November's agricultural exports to Saudi Arabia topped the list at 24.4 per cent followed by the United Arab Emirates (UAE) at 31.9 per cent, Bahrain at 30.5 per cent, Qatar at 10.3 per cent and Lebanon 4 per cent, according to the bulletin. Exports to foreign countries accounted for 0.9 per cent of total exports, the bulletin added. Tomatoes made up the major portion of the produce exports which included mandarines, lemons, lettuce, peppers, eggplants, cabbage, cauliflower and grape fruit. According to the AMO, November's exports registered an increase by 1,623 tonnes over October.

#### Police arrest man for murder of wife

**AMMAN** (Petra) — Amman Police Sunday said they have arrested a man in connection with the murder of a woman janitor at a school in Amman. According to police, the man has admitted to committing the crime. Brigadier Abdullah Al Hababeh, the department director, said that the murdered woman, an Egyptian national identified only as R.A.A., was found dead in the courtyard of the school, located on the Italian Hospital street hours after the crime was reported to the police. The department's Criminal Investigation Unit questioned the woman's husband among other people. The man was interrogated several times and confessed to murder his wife, said Brig. Hababeh. He said the husband, whose name was withheld, confessed that he had followed his wife to the school where he started searching for the school funds and other items to steal. According to Brig. Hababeh, the husband said that when his wife tried to stop him, he stabbed her several times and left her dead in the schoolyard.

## Labour offices call for more inspection teams

**AMMAN** (Petra) — Heads of labour offices in the various governorates Sunday recommended that the Ministry of Labour increase the number of teams inspecting establishments for the legal employment of foreign workers.

At a meeting chaired by Minister of Labour Khaled Ghzawi, the officials also stressed the need to intensify inspectors' visits to the various institutions to ensure that they abide by the regulations concerning the employment of guest workers.

The heads of the departments discussed coordination between the labour ministry, the Social Security Corporation (SSC), the Vocational Training Corporation (VTC) and the National Population Commission in building an integrated data base to monitor the process of employment. Meanwhile, a team repre-

senting the Central Council of the Federation of Jordanian Labour Unions returned Sunday from Damascus after attending a meeting of the Arab Federation of Labourers.

Fawzi Doso, the council's chairman, who led the team to the Damascus meeting, said issues related to Arab workers' employment in other countries, social and economic matters pertaining to Arab workers, labour activities and labour union programmes were tackled at the meeting.

He said solidarity among Arab labourers and preparation for a pan-Arab federation of labour unions in Tunis next month were discussed.

Mr. Doso said he was received by Syrian Prime Minister Mahmoud Al Zou'bi, with whom he discussed several labour-related issues and cooperation between Syria and Jordan in labour affairs.

### WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

#### EXHIBITIONS

- ★ Art exhibition by Jordanian artists Khaled Hijazi, Mohammad Al Ameri, and Adnan Al Sharif at Phoenix Gallery for Art and Culture (Tel. 695291).
- ★ Art exhibition by artist Samia Zarou at the Open Studio "Al Marsam Al Maftah," Jabal Amman, 2nd Circle (9:00-13:00 and 15:00-17:00 all days except Fridays).
- ★ Exhibition of handicrafts at the Marriott Hotel.
- ★ Photographic exhibition by artist Basheir Al-Hajeh at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ★ Plastic art exhibition on the intifada and Jerusalem at the Professional Association Complex.
- ★ Two exhibitions of paintings by Edelbert De La Portilla and Pitr Pawlaczek at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ★ Exhibition of prints and drawings by Fakhr El Nissa Zeid at Darat Al Funan of the Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation in Jabal Lweibdeh. Also showing the permanent exhibition (Saturday-Thursday 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.)
- ★ Plastic art exhibition by a number of Iraqi artists at La Casa Art Gallery (between the

#### CHRISTMAS CAROLS

- ★ Christmas carols presentation at the Royal Cultural Centre at 8:00 p.m.

#### FILMS

- ★ Short film entitled "Impromptu" at the French Cultural Centre at 8:00 p.m.
- ★ Film entitled "Tous Les Matins Du Monde" at the French Cultural Centre.
- ★ Circassian film entitled "The Twilight of Hopes" at Philadelphia Cinema at 8:30 p.m.

#### LECTURES

- ★ Lecture entitled "Earliest Humans in the Jordan Rift Valley" by Dr. Phillip Edwards of La Trobe University in Australia, and Dr. Phillip Macumber of the Ministry of Water Resources in Oman at the Friends of Archaeology Centre at 7:00 p.m.

Under the Patronage of Their Royal Highnesses

Prince Abdullah bin Al-Hussein and Princess Rania Al-Abdullah

Goethe-Institut Amman & The Jerusalem Forum / Friends of Dar al-Tifl al-Arabi

proudly present a concert by

### BELAROS TRIO

Works by Mozart, Schumann, Dvorak

Tuesday, 14 Dec. 93, 8 p.m.

Petra Ball Room, Regency Palace Hotel

Tickets: JD 7 available at:

Goethe-Institut, Tel. 641993  
 Jerusalem Forum, Tel. 823222  
 National Music Conservatory, Tel. 687620  
 Regency Palace Hotel  
 Romero Restaurant  
 Firas Bookshop, Jabal Amman  
 Sweet Supermarket

In cooperation with the Regency Palace Hotel

## Jordan pursues environment strategy

**AMMAN** (Petra) — The government is currently setting up a specialised department to implement and monitor the Kingdom's National Strategy on the Environment endorsed last year, said Minister of Planning Ziad Fariz Sunday.

Addressing the opening session of a U.N.-sponsored meeting at the Forte Grand Hotel in Amman, the minister said the national strategy, which was drafted in cooperation with international organisations, provides for the protection of the environment against industrial pollution and suggests guidelines for safe ex-

ploitation of natural resources.

The creation of the department, said Dr. Fariz, was part of the country's drive to create qualified cadres and prepare executive programmes in order to implement the environmental strategy.

The information gathered so far about the environment is insufficient for the work of the department, said the minister, adding that there is a need for 32 senior Jordanian officials and experts from the Department of the Environment as well as 11 representatives from ESCWA and UNEP.

Dr. Fariz stressed that research and development should essentially come from within the country.

Organised by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) and financed by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the two-day meeting is attended by 52 senior Jordanian officials and experts from the Department of the Environment as well as 11 representatives from ESCWA and UNEP.

ESCWA officials said that the Jordanian team attending

the meeting is directly responsible for the implementation of economic projects in the Kingdom.

Also addressing the opening session of the meeting, entitled "Strengthening of Management and Planning Capabilities in Jordan," was Sahab Bakaji, ESCWA executive secretary, who explained the objectives of the seminar and its benefits to Jordan.

The industrial revolution and the exploitation of natural resources worldwide, including Jordan, have brought about major changes to the environment, said Dr. Bakaji.

## Human rights goals should coincide with development, say activists

By Sa'eda Kilani  
Special to the Jordan Times

**AMMAN** — The struggle for human rights should proceed in step with development rather than follow it, human rights advocates say.

"We are very well aware of the history of some developing countries that confiscated the freedoms of their peoples in the name of development," said Ali Oumelil, secretary-general of the Arab Thought Forum, in a cultural festival held Saturday evening at Abdul Hamid Shoman Foundation to mark the 45th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. "But (time revealed) that development was not achieved and human rights remained absent."

Dr. Oumelil pointed out that the respect for human rights in the West throughout its development process was one of the basic reasons for the West's prosperity, and that increased expansion was met with increased freedoms.

The theory that calls for a disengagement between development and democracy is unacceptable to us," Dr. Oumelil said. "The ideology that rejects the right to a democratic state is an antonym to democracy and an antonym to development which is a fundamental right of the individual."

Dr. Oumelil also rejected the Orientalist theory that maintains that divine rights in Islam cancel human rights.

He said that safeguarding God's rights is safeguarding human rights too.

Those who choose to found their human rights thinking on natural rights should not oppose those who prefer to resort to God's scripts as a base," he said, but added that both advocates should, at the end, meet at one point.

Speaking of human rights in accordance with international charters and covenants, Lower House Deputy Toujan Faisal said the most important right of the individual is freedom of expression, which is the origin of all freedoms and the key to development in any society.

"We will not be able to protect any right or struggle for any freedom if we have no freedom of expression," Ms. Faisal said.

The right to choose one's beliefs, the freedom to leave the country, and access to information were all cited by Ms. Faisal as being parts of and stemming from the freedom of expression ... and freedom of expression, she continued, is suppressed by ideological intimidation that is exercised not only by some regimes but also by social forces, especially religious movements that intimidate

people in the name of religion.

Such power has a political dimension, she maintained, and religion is used to suppress free thinking, she said.

An individual's right to have access to information is controlled by political authorities, said Deputy Faisal, and therefore he/she is again subjected to limitations on his/her freedom of expression.

According to Ms. Faisal, the regimes that oppose the creation of organisations aim mainly at political groupings rather than charitable societies, which consequently means that they aim to suppress freedom of expression.

Secretary-General of the Arab Organisation for Human Rights — Jordan Branch Amin Shuaqir spoke of the need to protect women's rights and said that the election of the first woman deputy to the Lower House of Parliament is "an honourable start."

He said he hoped that women in the Jordanian society will be guaranteed full rights, will enjoy equality and escape the injustices they have been suffered for many decades.

"I hope this start will be a sign of a better future where the practice of viewing women as inferior will disappear once and for all," said Dr. Shuaqir.

He called for the appointment of a committee to study the laws and regulations that contradict the spirit and letter of the international laws on human rights and amend them to ensure that every individual enjoys full rights.

He also called on Arab governments to adopt an Arab charter for human rights that would ensure the basic rights of the individual and provide adequate assurances to their people to practise these rights.

Dr. Shuaqir added that ensuring these rights can be carried out by establishing an Arab committee as well as an Arab court for human rights.

The Arab governments should also endorse the international agreements on human rights to put "an end to phenomena of violating human rights—and should be urged to license human rights organisations," he said.

## AMMAN NEW YORK

THREE WEEKLY FLIGHTS

WEDNESDAY THURSDAY SATURDAY

DEP. AMMAN	05:45	05:55	23:59
ARR. NEW YORK	15:10	15:10	SUN. 15:10

Sales & Reservations : 666055 or your travel agent

AIR FRANCE //

ASK THE WORLD OF US

**Under the Patronage of Her Majesty Queen Noor**  
**The Al Hussein Society for the Rehabilitation of the Physically Handicapped**  
**Invites you to its annual International Bazaar**

At the Amman Marriott Hotel, Wednesday, December 15, 1993 from 10:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

★ International Bake Sale  
 ★ Decorations ★ Handicrafts  
 ★ Gift Items

## Deal still on?

**THE CRUCIAL** talks between Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat in Cairo yesterday, in the company of Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, was the result of several factors and developments in recent days. On top of the list of events that contributed to the summit was of course the just concluded trip of U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher to the Middle East, by succeeding first in arranging a meeting in Geneva between U.S. President Bill Clinton and his Syrian counterpart Hafez Al Assad in August last month, Mr. Christopher reshuffled the Syrian card into positive use for the purposes of the entire peace process. Syria's long-standing boycott of its bilateral talks with Israel as well as the parallel multilateral negotiations had cast a pall over the entire peace process and effectively thwarted efforts to advance them rapidly. Mr. Christopher's success in having Damascus jump on the peace train has thus created a more positive climate for untangling the other knots affecting the overall deal.

The Israeli-Perez meeting last week in Geneva can also be credited with facilitating the holding of the Cairo tripartite summit.

Foreign Minister Shimon Peres has announced a policy statement, which in effect means that today's deadline for the implementation of the Sept. 13 PLO-Israel accord on certain self-reliance for the Palestinians is just the beginning of the process leading to its total realization and not the end. Arafat was reportedly persuaded that the initiation of the process leading to putting in place the Gaza-Jericho first agreement could be acceptable under certain conditions. Needless to say, Mr. Peres has been under considerable pressure from his Palestinian constituency to show meaningful results, including the release of Palestinian prisoners on a scale that goes beyond what Mr. Rabin had been willing to accomplish. This is where Israeli confidence-building measures are urgently called for in order to pave the way for a Palestinian acceptance of Mr. Peres' proposition that the Dec. 13 deadline is the start and not the end of the road to him as the Palestinian-Israeli agreement is concerned.

The third catalyst in the ongoing scheme to move forward the PLO-Israel deal is of course President Mubarak, who has put his full weight behind the initial breakthrough on the Palestinian front. Cairo has developed a vested interest in the success of the Israeli-Palestinian peace and cannot afford therefore to let all its efforts go down the drain. For all intents and purposes the Palestinian deal involved high stakes for Cairo that cannot be allowed to slip away.

Against this backdrop it came as no surprise that the Cairo summit has actually taken place at least with the much celebrated PLO-Israel accord was effectively resuscitated from near collapse over the dispute that developed over the timeline for its implementation. This fact in itself will swing back Palestinian public support to the accord with the Rabin government for not so long. Mr. Rabin stands also to profit from the summit by showing that the peace process is indeed irreversible but also not yet finalized.

The contours are obvious: What actually emerged from the Cairo summit was dismally failing to say the least. By agreeing to meet within 10 days or so to resolve outstanding issues over prisoners' release, control over borders and the size of Jericho area affected by the initial PLO-Israel deal means that while a large part of the deal was technically averted, the final agreement on all pending issues could spell another standstill. By giving the accord a mere breathing space for the time being is no good news for an agreement. From the look of things such an agreement appears still elusive.

## The future of democracy in Palestine

By Dr. Hisham Sharabi

The following is the keynote address delivered by Dr. Sharabi at the 26th annual convention of Arab American University Graduates on Oct. 22, 1993.

LAST month I visited Palestine for the first time in 46 years. I left Palestine before the fall, shortly after graduating from AUB (the American University of Beirut) in 1946 to pursue my studies at the University of Chicago. I went to see my home in the Ajami quarter, but I did not try to go in. My Jaffa was not the Jaffa I now saw; this was a surrealistic remnant of the city I knew. Nothing has changed and everything has changed. The truth I already knew was forcefully reconfirmed: memory can preserve itself only by keeping the present at bay.

The memory I wanted to preserve is of the Jaffa which some of you may know: of a gay, vibrant, bright, city, getting rapidly prosperous after the end of the Second World War on its world-famous oranges. Jaffa represented then the confident mood that prevailed throughout Palestine. Palestinian society was at that time a highly literate society, developing slowly into the kind of secular, modernizing society the pioneers of the Arab Renaissance of the previous generations had envisioned for the entire Arab World.

My sad return to Jaffa made me experience the full tragedy that befell my hometown and the entirety of my country. It was as though an atom bomb had been dropped of Jaffa and obliterated it. Like Hiroshima it was rebuilt. But unlike the now prosperous Japanese city, Jaffa never came back to life. Instead, another city, populated by another people, was created. The original inhabitants have simply disappeared; the few who remained or took refuge in it from the surrounding villages led a shadowy life in the ruined outskirts; remnants of the city no longer there.

The life that was interrupted nearly fifty years ago in Jaffa and in all of Palestine, can now be rebuilt. In this sense Palestine is still within reach. Travelling in Gaza and throughout the West Bank I felt the firm soil of Palestine under my feet and the warm Palestinian sun on my face. I had been told by friends who had visited the occupied territories that Jewish settlements were to be seen everywhere, on hill tops, along the main roads, close to wherever there was a Palestinian village or town. While this was certainly true of certain areas, particularly around Jerusalem and along the Ramallah-Nablus road, most of the settlements I saw appeared isolated and thinly populated, vulnerable encampments rather than expanding outposts of a powerful settlement project. In contrast the Arab towns and villages strewn across the countryside looked calm and serene, firmly rooted in and confidently blending with the landscape.

This was not the over-crowded space I had envisioned. It seemed capable of sustaining a much larger population than it now had, especially if traditional agricultural techniques and high-tech industry replaced the old methods of manufacture. The problems should no longer be expressed in the old economic framework but in terms of the political and economic decisions the new society will take in re-fashioning itself and its future.

For the Palestinians, especially crucial is building a state firmly based on the rule of law. This is of the utmost importance, for the alternative can only be another version of patriarchal authority, for which democracy and human rights are merely manipulatory slogans; in short, just another *mukhabarat* state.

I don't think there is much point in spending much time discussing the Oslo agreement and its various shortcomings. Most of those who support it and those who oppose it have much the same fears and reservations about it. Where they disagree is over what to do about it now that it has been negotiated, signed and ratified.

I think we all agree that a far better agreement could have been negotiated. But even a better and more acceptable agreement would still have essentially the same framework, the one based on the National Palestine Council's 1988 resolution accepting the two-state solution and recognizing Israel's right to exist, and one governing the peace process launched in Madrid in 1989. The difference between this agreement and a better one would have been in detail but not in basic structure.

The fact is we have been pushed into the water. But if we don't swim we will drown.

What's the point in harping on what most of us do not disagree with? Is there a realistic alternative to the course of action provided by this agreement, which has been enthusiastically endorsed by the international community and accepted, albeit reluctantly and with many reservations, by the majority of Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza according to recent polls.

Rejection of the agreement may appear to some the proof of ideological purity, to others it may be psychologically the most satisfying decision to take. But it is a Quixotic position at best, and could be regarded as callous when the majority of the Palestinians who have carried the burden of the struggle over all these years have chosen to take the risk of the fait accompli. It is clear that Palestinian rejection this time will cause the world to turn its back to us and forget there is a Palestinian problem, leaving us and the Israelis to settle our differences alone.

Probably the only logical, though in my opinion suicidal, alternative is the one put forward by the fundamentalists: all or nothing. And this is an alternative which the majority has also rejected.

The question should not be whether the PLO should enter negotiations on the basis of the agreement but whether the PLO, given its history of corruption and ineptness, can handle such a huge task, and what should be done to steer it or push it in the right direction.

We talk today about human rights, basic freedoms, democracy. What do these concepts mean to the Palestinian people who over the last half century have been uprooted and dispersed, and their society crushed? These concepts certainly mean to them a great deal more than they do to people who already enjoy security and a stable social order. Having to start from scratch, the Palestinians want to build a free, humane and democratic Palestine. They will not be satisfied, for example with just the slogans, but will want truly free elections in which no one will be elected by 99 per cent of the vote. They also want to do what no Arab regime has been able to achieve since independence: not only to award women full rights and equality but also to honour Palestinian women, by acknowledging their unique and heroic role in the intifada and the struggle for national survival. What happened in Algeria will not be allowed to happen in Palestine. What happened in Algeria shall not be allowed to happen in Palestine seriously.

The only way Palestinians, inside and outside of Palestine, can fight for democracy is by engaging in democratic practices: in exercising the freedom of speech and criticism without fear, in holding public meetings, in setting up teach-ins, in organizing panel discussions, when it becomes necessary, in taking to the street and demonstrating.

Only open criticism and debate can generate the kind of consensus that would yield political results. Political pressure is possible only when criticism is translated into specific demands.

In the West Bank and Gaza I learned of different informal groups forming, within the various organizations, among independents, in the women's movement. In this country, the same could happen in the Palestinian-American and Arab-American communities.

Groups and individuals forging demands on specific issues and making substantive appeals directly or through the media can influence events and shape decision-making.

In concluding, I would like to underscore two issues I have indirectly alluded to: the woman question and Islamic fundamentalism.

Without confronting these two problems openly and directly Arab society, including Palestinian society, will not be able to carry out the radical social change to enable it to deal with the modern world and to enter the 21st century.

For the Palestinians, especially crucial is building a state firmly based on the rule of law. This is of the utmost importance, for the alternative can only be another version of patriarchal authority, for which democracy and human rights are merely manipulatory slogans; in short, just another *mukhabarat* state.

Unfortunately, the way things are going does not inspire much optimism. Two examples: Reporting from Amman earlier this month (October), Middle East International correspondent Lamis Andoni describes how what she calls the "chaotic" working practices of the PLO were affecting its effectiveness in dealing with the post-agreement situation on the ground.

The leadership's delay in forming committees to discuss details of the Israeli withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho and the responsibilities of the elected council have had to make do with the chaotic working practices and lack of preparedness that characterize the PLO. Furthermore, the leadership seems to be deliberately delaying the process. It hopes thereby both to secure a bigger role in administering the funds for the occupied territories and to ensure victory in the elections.

This is why progressive and secular Palestinians should insist on the centrality of these two questions. For on their proper solution will depend not only the kind of society that will be rebuilt in Palestine, but the future and role of Arab and Muslim civilization in the world.

## The challenge of peace

By Dr. James Zogby

THE three months that have elapsed since the signing of the Israel-PLO Declaration of Principles have been filled with tragedy and genuine threats to peace.

The euphoria that accompanied the signing in both Israeli and Palestinian society has subsided, not only among the often cited "enemies of peace" but now even the average "men in the street" are questioning whether peace is, in fact, near at hand.

"Senior (Palestinian) officials spoke of their concern that the leadership... was moving too slowly in putting the right people in charge."

"There is also some criticism of (the) tendency, in the words of a senior executive, to 'favour trust over competence,' by placing loyalists in important positions and ignoring talented but outspoken Palestinians who may question (the leadership's) absolute authority."

"And, he adds, 'The competition for posts in the coming Palestinian administration in Jericho has hampered the PLO's ability to communicate with the outside world as rivals are consumed in settling accounts with one another.'

What is to be done? More specifically, what can we do

to implement the accords?

First of all we must remember that what the Palestinian-American and Arab-American community says and does carries much more weight in Palestine and the Arab World than most of us think. The following thoughts may be useful to consider.

If most of us, particularly the intellectuals, professionals, business people, students and academics continue to restrict their comments and criticisms to private discussions and social gatherings, while maintaining a public neutral or non-committal, or at best, mildly reproachful attitude, we should have no one but ourselves to blame for not being taken seriously. In these critical times, only by stepping up and taking a clear position can we make our voice heard and make those in charge take us seriously.

The only way Palestinians, inside and outside of Palestine, can fight for democracy is by engaging in democratic practices: in exercising the freedom of speech and criticism without fear, in holding public meetings, in setting up teach-ins, in organizing panel discussions, when it becomes necessary, in taking to the street and demonstrating.

Only open criticism and debate can generate the kind of consensus that would yield political results. Political pressure is possible only when criticism is translated into specific demands.

In the West Bank and Gaza I learned of different informal groups forming, within the various organizations, among independents, in the women's movement. In this country, the same could happen in the Palestinian-American and Arab-American communities.

Groups and individuals forging demands on specific issues and making substantive appeals directly or through the media can influence events and shape decision-making.

In concluding, I would like to underscore two issues I have indirectly alluded to: the woman question and Islamic fundamentalism.

Without confronting these two problems openly and directly Arab society, including Palestinian society, will not be able to carry out the radical social change to enable it to deal with the modern world and to enter the 21st century.

The psychological breakthroughs of the September 13 signing was not accompanied by a political breakthrough. The accords themselves were left deliberately vague, ambiguous and, in a few cases, contradictory. It was hoped that the political capital earned from the signing would provide both the strength and incentive to resolve the difficulties—but, as I have noted, the passing of time, the violence and the reactions of both societies to it have eaten away at the capital earned on September 13.

Consequently, both leaderships now find themselves in a position not unlike the one in which they found themselves at the conclusion of the ninth round of the Madrid talks. There is a desperate need for a breakthrough, but both sides are too weak to make any further movements. As before, such a situation may require an outside agent to help them do what they are unable to do on a strictly bilateral basis. In this setting, the U.S. should play a more active role and become the "real partner" that Secretary of State Warren Christopher regularly uses when he describes this country's role.

This is why progressive and secular Palestinians should insist on the centrality of these two questions. For on their proper solution will depend not only the kind of society that will be rebuilt in Palestine, but the future and role of Arab and Muslim civilization in the world.

changes in people's daily lives.

The quicker the movement towards withdrawal and the establishment of a Palestinian police force, and the more rapid the improvement of daily life in the territories, the more rapid will be the decrease in violence. Palestinians will acquire a vested interest in stability, and will view terrorist acts as provocations that can only bring about a return of Israeli forces.

Palestinians must be willing, as some Palestinian leaders already have, to assure Israelis that Palestinian police will provide security to all within their jurisdiction, and that they will crack down on violence. This is not anti-*intifada*. It is pro-*intifada* in the truest sense of building the infrastructure of Palestinian society towards Palestinian independence from Israeli rule.

With assurances and a renewed sense of confidence and public support, Israel must move to stop the settlers because their violence not only kills Palestinians and impedes Israeli withdrawal (which is their intention), but it also blocks Israeli efforts to achieve recognition and end its regional isolation. Settler violence, then, helps perpetuate Israel as a garrison state at war with its neighbours.

At the same time Palestinian violence, far from ending the occupation and bringing closer the day of a Palestinian state, slows the Israeli withdrawal and brings on increased Israeli repression.

Extremists on both sides must be held accountable not for merely challenging their leadership and impeding this particular set of negotiations but more significantly, for locking their respective societies into a maelstrom of conflict and fear. The cycle can be slowed and eventually stopped.

The danger is that these three months of violence and repression have produced new scars on the psyches of both peoples that will make it more difficult to move forward. There still is no going back, but the new reality may not be as promising as once generally believed. The sooner the process gets moving again, the fewer obstacles there will be to overcome. All parties to the Madrid process, including the U.S., must work earnestly to fulfill their obligations to peace.

## LETTERS

### The limits of freedom

To the Editor:

When meeting last week with the British author Salman Rushdie, U.S. President Bill Clinton seems to have been amateurishly induced to expose the loquacity of his office to the barbs of journalistic brinkmanship.

No one can question the sacrosanctity of the freedom of speech. Yet, Salman Rushdie, with his book "The Satanic Verses", had to be held accountable for abusing his "freedom". Hence the farce by the late Ayatollah Khomeini which came as a result of Salman Rushdie's refusal to apologize.

In one of Mr. Clinton's pronouncements during Mr. Rushdie's visit to the White House, the president disclaimed the late Ayatollah Khomeini with a farce of his own to wit:

"I do think it's important that here in the United States we reaffirm our commitment to protect the physical well-being and the right to speak of those with whom we may intensely disagree..."

Now hapless, Salman Rushdie is found caught between two potent fatwas!

Certainly, the president never intended any disrespect to the people who have that religious faith, meaning Islam. However, allowing for the dust of media innuendo to settle down, it is clear that both Mr. Clinton and the late Ayatollah Khomeini which came as a result of Salman Rushdie's refusal to apologize.

Whence, in Iran Salman Rushdie was held accountable for blaspheming Islam; here, in the United States, any Salman Rushdie, who chooses to blaspheme any religion, when pleading the First Amendment is not even held answerable.

What we are facing here is a textbook illustration of a cultural clash, which should have been avoided instead of escalated into an international hullabaloo.

For a Muslim to question the script of the Holy Koran is tantamount to blasphemy. No Muslim, ever, could permit himself/herself to question the intrinsic divinity of Jesus Christ and the celestial veneration of St. Mary's immaculate conception. By comparison, many Christian denominations remain lukewarm to the textual authority of the Holy Bible.

Here lies the challenge of how to reconcile the morality of secularism with the infallibility of religious dogma.

In the case of Salman Rushdie, in particular, the challenge lies in comparing the impotent sensationalism of the words of a novelist with the potent and evangelical words of God's messenger, the Prophet Mohammad, or of any Christian or Jewish prophet for that matter!!!

Allow me to conclude that President Clinton never needed to champion the cause of Mr. Rushdie in order to add luster to the qualities of the First Amendment. With deference to all the president's successful achievements so far, this one of Salman Rushdie is a *faux pas*.

Ludwig W. Tamari,  
9200 River Road,  
Potomac,  
Maryland 20854,  
U.S.A.

The Jordan Times welcomes letters and contributions from its readers on any subject they wish to tackle

# Features

## Gammoh presents draft budget for 1994

(Continued from page 1)

Investment volume remained at the same level of 1992, with initial indicators pointing that it would reach 30 per cent of the GDP due to the high investment level achieved in that year when returnees from the Gulf brought new capital to the market.

The amount of industrial capital registered at the Ministry of Industry in November was JD 122 million, compared to JD 47 million in the same month in 1992.

Mr. Gammoh said the inflation was expected not to exceed 4.5 per cent by the end of the year. This rate and the salary increases that civil servants received in the year contributed to the improvement of the quality of life of limited and low income people.

Mr. Gammoh said the government's monetary policy maintained currency stability, and led to an 18 per cent in private credits in the

expected to reach 984,000, with 857,000 of them employed, thus keeping at 13 per cent the level of unemployment. This, the minister said, compares with the 18 per cent unemployment rate in 1991 when 763,000 of the 919,000-strong workforce were employed.

Mr. Gammoh said that a study conducted by the Department of General Statistics points that people living under the poverty line went down from 21.3 per cent in 1991 to 16.2 per cent in 1992, adding that the level was expected to decline further.

He said the volume of trade at the Amman Financial Market was expected to reach JD 1 billion, compared to JD 887 million in 1992, an increase of 12.7 per cent. He said the increase was expected even though the "wait-and-see" stand of the financial sector due to the latest political developments could cause a recession in the last four months.

Mr. Gammoh said the government's monetary policy maintained currency stability, and led to an 18 per cent in private credits in the

first eight months of the year. He said the government would maintain its policy of lifting all restrictions on currency transfers in the Jordanian dinar and linking its value to a basket of foreign currencies. He pointed out that the floating interest rates contributed to financial and monetary stability in the country.

The minister said that the country's foreign currency reserves slightly declined in September because the country bought back \$325 million of foreign debts and paid \$673 million in debt servicing and repayment.

He said the volume of trade at the Amman Financial Market was expected to reach JD 1 billion, compared to JD 887 million in 1992, an increase of 12.7 per cent. He said the increase was expected even though the "wait-and-see" stand of the financial sector due to the latest political developments could cause a recession in the last four months.

The minister said the performance of the general finance continued to improve as a result of the country's adherence to the social and economic adjustment programme. This performance could result in achieving a surplus of JD 26.3 million. Grants are included, compared to a deficit of JD 48 million that was projected in the 1993 budget.

The deficit, excluding grants and foreign aid, went down to JD 116 million from a projected JD 203 million, a decrease of 43 per cent, said the minister.

Mr. Gammoh said the adherence to the economic adjustment programme, prescribed by the International Monetary Fund (IMF), helped reschedule foreign debts from commercial and government sources. This softened the impact of foreign indebtedness on Jordan and maintained the creditworthiness of the country, he said.

The government last June reached an agreement with the advisory committee of the London Club of commercial debtors to reschedule \$89.5 million of foreign debt, the minister told reporters.

This agreement was signed in London Friday, he said. The deal resulted in lowering 60 per cent of the size of these debts which constitute 12 per cent of the total foreign debts of the country. The annual burden of servicing these debts was also lowered by 90 per cent, the minister told reporters.

"The television is the television of the government," said Deputy Ahmad Al-Kashef, joining other deputies in criticizing JTV's government-controlled policy.

While Deputy Nader Tuherifat said television should continue to cover the activities of the House because it shows the Jordanian democracy to neighbouring countries. Other deputies said democracy should be "shown to our people before it is exported to others."

This is a complaint, the treatment of which does not lie in banning television from the House," said Mr. Massi, adding he would discuss the issue with the minister of information in order to reach an "acceptable formula that meets with the satisfaction of all."

At the request of Deputy Mohammad Al-Zibani, acting Prime Minister Ma'ali Abu Novai said he would Wednesday present the House with a summary of the talks the government held last week with PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat and U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher.

The House agreed to hold its regular sessions on Sunday afternoons and Wednesday mornings.

reach \$1.1 billion. Mr. Gammoh said the budget made a fair balance between taxes and expenditure, reminding deputies that they have to increase taxes if they wanted more government spending.

Pointing to the global economic decline, Mr. Gammoh said Jordan had defined its economic policy in light of the regional political changes which would have a large impact on its economy.

He said the government would seek to attain complementarity among Arab states and participate effectively in drawing the economic map of the region.

He said Jordan would seek full coordination concerning the Arab boycott of Israel once the peace process produces tangible and clear results, emphasising the government's intention to maintain economic and political coordination with the Palestine Liberation Organization and the Palestinian self-rule authorities in order to plan the future relationship in a way which guarantees the national interests of the two sides.

After the House referred the draft budget to its Finance Committee, Deputy Bassam Haddadin demanded that the government makes available to deputies the letter of intent it had sent to the IMF. Speaker Taha Al-Masri asked the Finance Committee to pursue the issue with the government.

The minister said the decision was made after Deputy Karim Al-Dugmi asked that Jordan Television be banned from covering the sessions of the House because, he said, it doctors the deputies' speeches in a way that misrepresents them.

Deputy Mohammad Daoudi demanded that Jordan Television be "freed from the domination of the ministry of information." He said JTV, which does not present points of view opposed to the government, is a national institution which should be made independent.

The government last June reached an agreement with the advisory committee of the London Club of commercial debtors to reschedule \$89.5 million of foreign debt, the minister told reporters.

This agreement was signed in London Friday, he said. The deal resulted in lowering 60 per cent of the size of these debts which constitute 12 per cent of the total foreign debts of the country. The annual burden of servicing these debts was also lowered by 90 per cent, the minister told reporters.

"The television is the television of the government," said Deputy Ahmad Al-Kashef, joining other deputies in criticizing JTV's government-controlled policy.

While Deputy Nader Tuherifat said television should continue to cover the activities of the House because it shows the Jordanian democracy to neighbouring countries. Other deputies said democracy should be "shown to our people before it is exported to others."

This is a complaint, the treatment of which does not lie in banning television from the House," said Mr. Massi, adding he would discuss the issue with the minister of information in order to reach an "acceptable formula that meets with the satisfaction of all."

At the request of Deputy Mohammad Al-Zibani, acting Prime Minister Ma'ali Abu Novai said he would Wednesday present the House with a summary of the talks the government held last week with PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat and U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher.

The House agreed to hold its regular sessions on Sunday afternoons and Wednesday mornings.

## Human Rights File

By Waleed Sadi

### Giving legitimacy, respect to life

ONE OF the most contested human rights issues is the so-called "illegitimate" children subject. Throughout history, children born out of wedlock were stigmatised as fruits of evil relationships and therefore regarded as some kind of disgraceful creatures. This attitude, however, has begun to change due to the rise of a more humanistic outlook.

Even prior to advent and enforcement of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, other international human rights instruments shed light on the unjust differences between children born in wedlock and those born out of it. More and more countries began amending their laws to recognise the rights of those children.

A more enlightened approach to those children began to gather momentum since they were recognised as a vulnerable group who deserve protection rather than victimisation. To buttress this contemporary line of thinking, advocates of a more human treatment of such children based their views on both the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) and the International Convention on the Right of the Child (ICRC).

Article 24 of the ICCPR reads as follows:

"Every child shall have, without any discrimination...the right to such measures of protection as are required by his status as a minor." The emphasis here is made on the word "every" which has been repeatedly interpreted as intended to eliminate any distinction between children whether born to married couples or not.

Article 2 of the ICCPR dispels any scepticism by stipulating that "each state party to the present Covenant undertakes to respect and to ensure to all INDIVIDUALS within its territory and subject to its jurisdiction the rights recognised in the present Covenant, without DISTINCTION OF ANY KIND."

This reinforcement of the principle of equality between persons has been also resorted to by the Human Rights Commission (HRC) to press for the repudiation of any differential treatment of children on the basis of their status as born in marriage or out of it.

The Declaration of the Rights of the Child proclaimed by the U.N. General Assembly in 1959 is even clearer on the requirement for equal treatment between children. The third preamble paragraph sets the tone for the Declaration by stating that children need special safeguards, including appropriate legal protection before, as well as after, their birth. Principle 1 of the Declaration elucidates even further this requirement for equal treatment by stating that "every child, WITHOUT ANY EXCEPTION WHATSOEVER shall be entitled to these rights (rights set forth in the Declaration). In principle 2, it is also stated that "in the enactment of laws (on children), the best interests of the child shall be the paramount consideration."

The Convention on the Rights of the Child, which codified the principles enshrined in the Declaration, gave legal import to the guidelines for equal protection to all children.

By defining a child as "every human being below the age of eighteen years," the Convention, which went into effect in 1990, made it legally binding for all the state parties to treat all children equally irrespective of their status on birth.

These two basic human rights treaties reveal that no distinction whatsoever was entertained by the drafters between children whether so-called legitimate or illegitimate. On the basis of this, more and more countries are removing all lingering differential treatment between children irrespective of whether or not they are "legitimate" or "illegitimate" on the grounds that children are always legitimate.

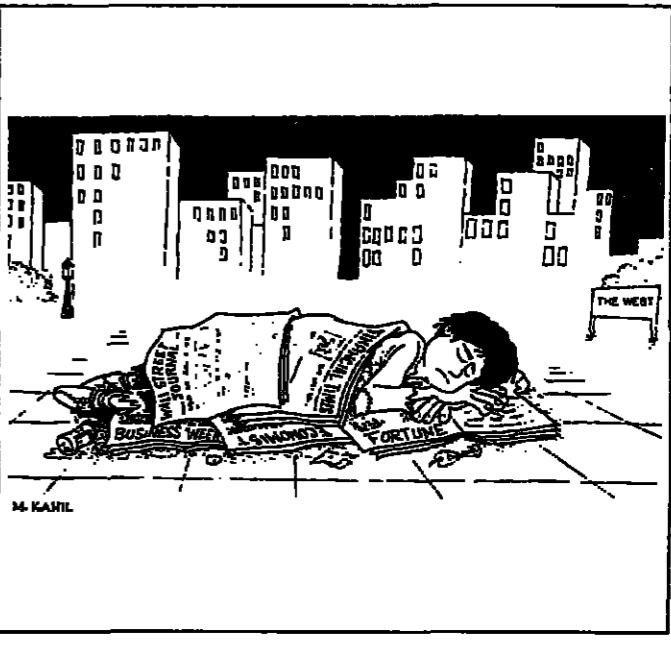
Western countries are spearheading the efforts to eliminate all elements of discrimination against "illegitimate" children. During last autumn's session of the Human Rights Committee held in Geneva, Japan was subjected to close cross examination by the 18-member tribunal on this particular issue. The occasion was the examination of Japan's third periodic report and for this purpose Japan sent a high-level delegation to

United Nations' European Headquarters. Hundreds of Japanese non-governmental organisations (NGOs) attended the deliberations of the Committee and many of them lobbied effectively by equal treatment to children and pressed the members to raise the continuing discrimination against "illegitimate" children as far as inheritance is concerned. Tokyo has already legislated out all other forms of discrimination but kept the one on inheritance. The overwhelming majority of the human rights experts sitting on the bench of the committee made pointed references to this issue and called for its speedy rectification. And in its concluding judgement, the tribunal officially called on Japan to take effective legislative measures to remove the remaining discriminatory laws on "illegitimate" children.

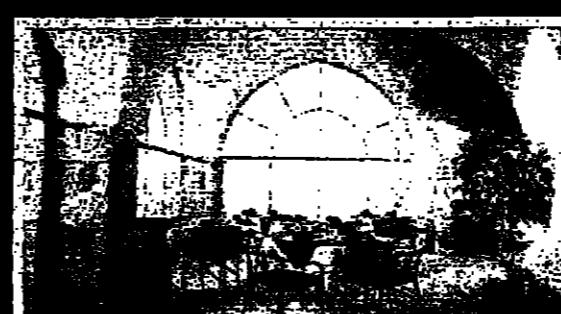
Now it has become almost a tradition for the committee to raise this issue. The confrontation that looms in the horizon will surely be between the Committee and traditional societies that still perpetuate the discriminatory practices against "illegitimate" children.

In legal terms, all countries must abide by the rulings of the Committee on this controversial subject except for those which made specific reservations. As a matter of fact very few countries entered reservations on this point when they ratified the relevant international conventions. The pressure that will continue to be applied against traditional countries of the world on this matter will undoubtedly promote within them in due course a more human perspective on "illegitimate" children with a view to according them equal treatment on most dimensions of life if not all.

Here in Jordan we have perhaps one of the most progressive legislations on the equal treatment between children. In the relevant family law, there is an explicit stipulation that when the biological father recognises a child born out of wedlock as his, that child acquires the family name of the father and inherits him on equal terms with the other so-called "legitimate" children". This equal treatment of all children is still the aspiration and yearning of all human rights activists in other countries that have yet to reach this level of equality. Of course there is still a great deal more than needs to be done locally to advance the cause of children in the Kingdom. The social stigma against the so-called "illegitimate children" in our country still hangs heavily over the heads of such children and needs to be addressed and rectified in keeping with our true traditions and religious mores.



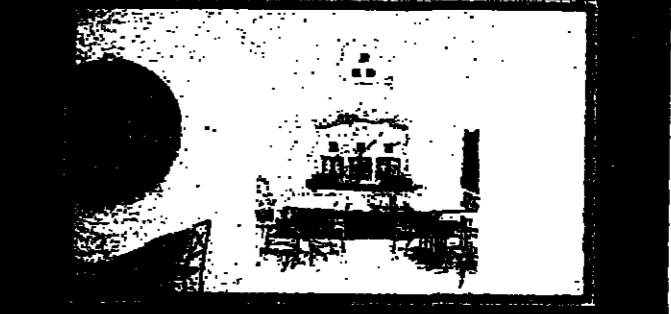
## New Year's Eve at UMM QAYS & PELLA RESTHOUSE



We are Ready to Organize by Bus a Private Party at the Above Beautiful Sites.

For Further Information Call Romero Restaurant at: 644228 or 658880

## Visit Ancient & Warm PELLA in The Jordan Valley.



See The Ruins & Try Our Fresh Jordan River Charcoal Grilled Fish.

For Further Information Call Romero Restaurant at: 644228 or 658880



PLEASE CALL FOR RESERVATION  
TEL 6585712 - 658140  
SHMEISAN - NEAR TO SIGHT & SOUND



Package Includes :-  
\* Round trip ticket.  
\* 3 nights accommodation in a deluxe hotel (five stars) AMSTERDAM.  
\* 3 nights accommodation in (4 stars) hotel LONDON.  
Package could be combined with normal travel or be tailor made for your convenience.  
Bestours Tel : 669532, 668608, 602456, 602457, Fax : 682560



PROFESSOR GRIMES

## FOR SALE MERCEDES 200 Duty Unpaid

1989 model, Attractive Red Exterior Black, Interior, Loaded (ABS, Sun Roof..) GarmanSpecs, very Low Milage(47k) Price To Sell Tel 614051.

## A MAJOR ADVERTISING COMPANY NEEDS TO HIRE THE FOLLOWING :

1- SECRETARY  
Two years experience in secretarial work at a senior level.  
Word processing skills.  
Fluency in English

2- GRAPHIC DESIGNER  
Five years experience in print, logo & package designing .

3- FEMALE SALES REPRESENTATIVES  
Three years experience .  
Has a car .  
Has experience in handling full advertising accounts .

ONLY QUALIFIED PLS. CTC. TEL : 318872/3/4 FOR APPOINTMENT

## JOB VACANCIES FOR JORDANIAN NATIONALS

### 1. Programme Secretary & Translator (female):

Besides full command of Arabic and English, typing and computer skills and knowledge in accounting are demanded. At least 3 years experience in office work. Applicant must fit into a highly-skilled and liberally-minded international team.

### 2. Driver/Messenger:

With at least 5 years experience. Modest behaviour and (preferably) some knowledge of English. Please, send your hand written application and C.V. to:

P.O.Box 183, Friedrich Naumann Foundation

## EC summit endorses tough new tack on unemployment

**BRUSSELS (AFP)** — For all their squabbling and rhetoric, European Community leaders ended their two-day summit here Saturday putting their stamp on a tough new tack to fight a worsening unemployment crisis.

While a dispute over financing for a massive investment project dominated the headlines, the government chiefs were quietly approving plans for economic rigour, labour market deregulation and wage restraint.

Behind all this was their belief that unemployment was now clearly structural problem, requiring hard measures to boost industry competitiveness, and not merely a product of economic cycles.

Prime Minister John Major told reporters that such an approach would have been unthinkable three years ago. EC chief executive Jacques Delors said the 36-year-old Communists had made a "new start."

Mr. Delors, the first to sound the alarm on the growing complexity of the unemployment problem, called on business and union leaders to join in the fight, although the benefits may not be im-

mediately apparent.

"If in two or three years they can perceive a positive result, then the process of European construction will have regained part of the credibility it had lost," the Frenchman told a news conference.

The summit wound up adopting an "action plan" based on Mr. Delors' proposals to provide jobs for many of the Community's 17 million unemployed — 11 per cent of the workforce — by the end of the century.

Among them were steps to keep salaries down as a spur to job-creating investments, to reduce social charges for companies, inject more flexibility on the labour market and provide more training and education opportunities.

The leaders also backed a 120 billion ECU (\$135 billion) investment scheme to build rail, road, energy and telecommunications networks — even if Britain and other states balked at bond issues to finance 40 per cent.

On a broader level, the summit was aimed at recapturing for the jobs campaign the same energy and sense of purpose that infused the EC when it

launched its plans for a single market in 1986.

The leaders were quick to put themselves on the back,

with French President Francois Mitterrand proclaiming that "a strong and valuable signal" had been sent about the Community's new seriousness.

German Chancellor Helmut

Kohl said "we have taken an important step for recovery in Europe," but Belgian Prime Minister Jean-Luc Dehaene, who chaired the summit as current EC president, added a note of caution.

Mr. Dehaene said words had to be translated into action, adding: "It is not policies that create jobs. We can only provide a framework, a dynamism."

The summit was the EC's first top-level gathering since it transformed itself into the European union on Nov. 1, and it flexed its muscles by taking a new hard-line stance on GATT world trade talks.

Just four days before the deadline for negotiations, the EC leaders insisted their film and television industries be given "exceptional and separate treatment" in their battle against Hollywood.

## Bhutto outlines economic package

**ISLAMABAD, Pakistan (AP)** — Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto has laid out an economic programme that could prove critical to Pakistan's efforts to secure a loan package from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank.

The international financers are holding off on signing off on the \$1.3 billion package until February, wanting first to see proof of Pakistan's commitment to economic reform,

said Harry Snoek, an IMF representative.

The State Bank of Pakistan, in its annual report on Pakistan's economy released Saturday, noted that the nation's once healthy growth rate was running at 4.5 per cent in 1993.

Ms. Bhutto's programme intends to boost the rate to 7.5 per cent, largely through the nation's cotton and textile industries. Cotton is Pakistan's biggest export commodity but much of the crop has been

devastated the last two years by floods and viruses, the report said.

Ms. Bhutto also hoped to reduce inflation from 15 per cent to eight per cent and build the foreign exchange reserves to \$1.3 billion from the current \$840 million.

The bank report says Ms. Bhutto faces a 7.9 per cent deficit, slightly higher than an earlier projection of 7.3 per cent.

Mr. Abu Hassan said that by establishing this industrial

## Bolivia gets \$1b in aid for '94

**WASHINGTON (R)** — The world financial community Saturday pledged \$1 billion in aid to Bolivia, one of the western hemisphere's poorest countries, as it struggles to wean its farmers off the raw material used to produce cocaine.

The group of 22 donor nations and international agencies made the pledge after a three-day meeting at the headquarters of the World Bank, the global lending organisation.

The money is aimed at helping President Gonzalo Sanchez de Lozada carry forward an ambitious privatisation and economic restructuring programme which puts more emphasis on social needs than similar plans elsewhere in Latin America.

"This exceeds all our expectations," Finance Minister Fernando Illanes told a news conference. He said an extra \$60 million was expected from donors absent from the meeting.

The group's chairman,

Yoshiaki Abe, praised Mr. Sanchez de Lozada for the economic restructuring plan and urged donors to come up with even more funds next year.

"If the government is successful in achieving its ambitious goals over the next year, I will urge all of you to be prepared to increase your support," he said in closing remarks to the meeting sponsored by the World Bank.

Last Wednesday Mr. Illanes told reporters Bolivia would be seeking some \$1.5 billion in assistance for the period 1994-97. The group decided to concentrate instead on aid for 1994, but came up with a sum well beyond Bolivia's goal.

Part of the money will be devoted to coca crop substitution.

Bolivia has always been one of the top producers of coca, the raw material for cocaine. But Washington now says the intensified anti-drug drive in Colombia has turned Bolivia into the world's no. 2 producer of pure cocaine, most of which finds its way to America's inner

city streets.

Mr. Illanes did not say how much would be devoted to fight drugs and indicated that will have to wait for the results of a United Nations study on crop substitution.

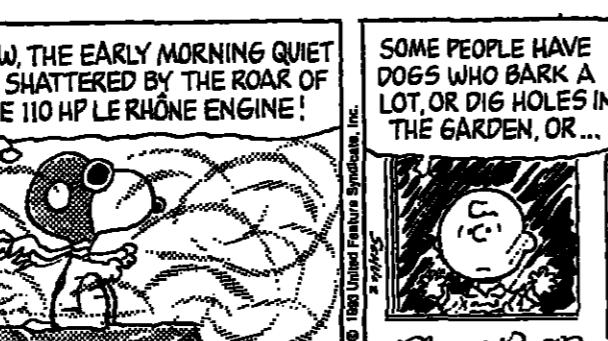
The assistance will prop up Mr. Sanchez de Lozada's plan to invest nearly \$7 billion for development over the next four years. The plan seeks to improve services, fight poverty, and spur economic growth of seven to eight per cent a year.

With a gross domestic product of only \$886 per capita, Bolivia is one of the western hemisphere's poorest nations.

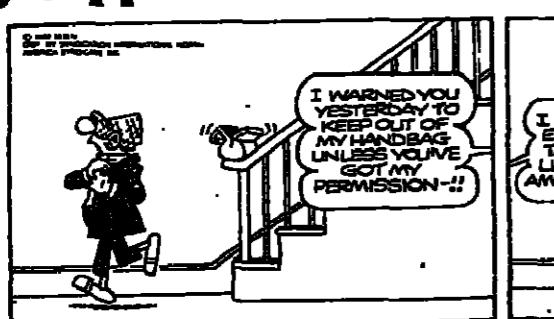
Mr. Illanes said most of the money was pledged by the United States, Canada, the World Bank, the Inter-American Development Bank and the Andean Development Corporation.

Japan and Spain took part in the meeting but have not made pledges yet. Other participants included the European Community and the International Monetary Fund.

## Peanuts



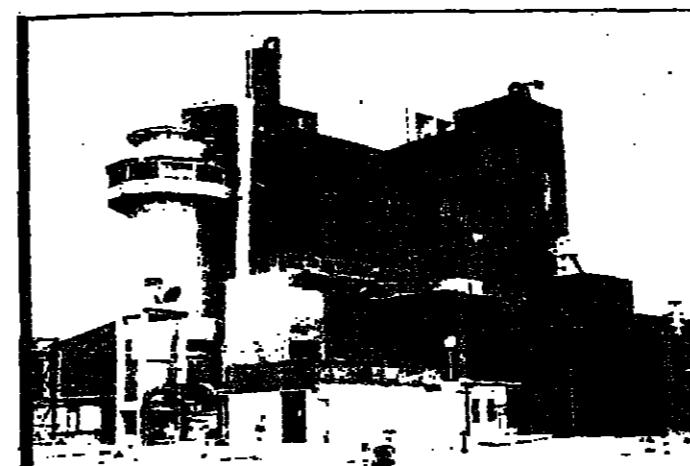
## Andy Capp



## Mutt 'n' Jeff



## In implementation of Royal directives to develop governorates Industries, capitalised at JD 10 million, to be nucleus of Mafraq industrial city



AMMAN — In implementation of Royal directives to develop various governorates, and in line with the government's policy of encouraging industrial schemes outside the capital, the Mafraq governorate has recently witnessed the establishment of an industrial city which aims at contributing to the country's socio-economic development in general and the Mafraq region in particular.

The new industries in the Mafraq governorate were the United Company for Sulphochemicals and the United Company for manufacturing detergents which were established with a JD 10 million capital.

These industries will complement the Agricultural, Commercial and Industrial Company (ACI) (Al Intaj), which was inaugurated by His Majesty King Hussein on June 4, 1963.

According to Mr. Abu

Hassan, the project, set up on 500 dunums of land, comprises a plant for producing sulphochemical primary products needed for the manufacture of detergents and cosmetics.

Expressing belief that the plant would be the largest of its kind in the area, Mr. Abu Hassan said that annual production would be at the rate of 26,000 tonnes of sulphochemical substances.

The plant which started production on July 7 has created jobs for 200 engineers, technicians and workers; it is using most up-to-date equipment on par with industrialised nations.

He said that there is a tendency among world firms which produce detergents to

consider Jordan as a major industrial zone for the production of detergents and cosmetics to be marketed in the countries of the region in view of the high-level quality of the products which, he said, are now competing with similar products manufactured by major industrial nations and because of the employment of most modern machinery and the presence of highly skilled manpower.

Mr. Abu Hassan noted that companies worldwide have expressed interest in manufacturing their own products in Jordan not only but also in the countries of the Middle East region because these firms believe that Jordan serves as a production centre for world markets.

"We take pride in this pro-

## Iranian official calls for economic belt-tightening

TEHRAN (Agencies) — Iranians should "tighten their belts" to counter the country's increasing economic ills caused mainly by the fall in oil prices, speaker of the Iranian parliament Ali Akbar Nategh Nuri said.

Mr. Nategh Nuri, quoted by newspapers here Sunday, told a public meeting that Iran was the victim of a conspiracy to lower oil prices hatched by world powers, notably the United States.

To avoid a crisis, we ought to move slowly and tighten our belts," he said, without elaborating.

Critics have called on parliament to assess the government's economic performance during the first five-year development plan (1988-1993) before giving it the go-ahead to implement the second.

Iran has been selling a barrel of crude for just over \$12 recently, far below the \$17 per barrel anticipated in the country's 1993-1994 budget, according to energy experts.

Oil accounts for 90 per cent of Iran's hard currency earnings.

The fall in oil prices comes amid a cash crisis in Iran and a

debt of some \$30 billion to foreign banks.

Iran also faces payment arrears of \$10 billion, only part of which has been rescheduled.

The national currency, the rial, has virtually collapsed during the past weeks against major currencies, causing a slow down in economic activities and a sharp rise in prices.

The economic difficulties in the past year have unleashed a wave of criticism of the government's policies in the press and parliament.

Critics have called on parliament to assess the government's economic performance during the first five-year development plan (1988-1993) before giving it the go-ahead to implement the second.

Mr. Nategh Nuri said implementation of the second five-year plan could be delayed for one year to provide time to review the government's performance during the past five

years, according to newspapers.

Last month, the daily Kayhan International blamed mismanagement, among other things, for the "state of chaos" in the Iranian economy.

"One thing is for sure, the situation will worsen and make life intolerable and miserable for this nation of 60 million people," the English-language daily said.

Meanwhile, the National Iranian Oil Co (NIOC) began selling crude oil out of Greece to improve marketing flexibility, the Middle East Economic Survey (MEES) has said.

It said the government oil firm was able to do this as a result of a storage arrangement with motor oil Hellas, adding that NIOC wanted to be more flexible in the Mediterranean and northwest Europe.

The newsletter said NIOC has also acquired storage space in Rotterdam, Le Havre and Sweden.

THE BETTER HALF, By Harris HARRISS



"I thought a snowball fight might be a fun way to liven up leftover mashed potatoes!"

JUMBLE, THAT SCRABBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Mike Argirov

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

TASHY

LAFIN

ROBRAW

GALUPE

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here: ○○○○ - ○○○○

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: KNAVE GULCH SPRUCE DILUTE

Answer: When you sneak food, eating becomes — CH-EATING

## HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR MONDAY DECEMBER 13, 1993

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

### GENERAL TENDENCIES:

The New Moon in Sagittarius conjuncts the Sun sharing with us GEMINIS METEOR, SHOWER creating more harmony, vitality and peaceful determination and a definite inclination toward instinctual activity.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19)

You are restless, want a change and to be off to new surroundings and personalities but maintain steadfastness and watch what is occurring about you.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20)

This is a day to scrupulously keep whatever promises you have made to any business persons and not to commit yourself to new deals, arrangements.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21)

You feel an outside companion is trying to hold you down to a course of action that you do not like but tactfully steer clear of the situation.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21)

You would be wise to have a definite plan of action for whatever tasks you have to do today and then carry through without upsetting the apple cart.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21)

Now you eager to have a good time but it would not be satisfactory so postpone seeking friends and close companions to go along with such you.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22)

There is a definite conflict between worldly interests and those that associate with your

own residence so plan you time so both get rightly done.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22)

A day that can be fraught with accidents that could last for some time if you take chances in motion and watch out for recklessness on the part of other persons.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21)

You want to start the week making changes or commitments where money or property matters are involved but judgment is not good at this time.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21)

Your own content today and tonight can cause you to make some sudden moves that can bring adverse conditions into effect so remain poised.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20)

You open the week with a problem in an activity which seems very difficult

AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET					
HOUSING BANK CENTER		NABOB - GEMSAINI			
TELEPHONE: 660110 / 662110		DECODED MARKET DAILY PRICE LIST FOR JORDAN			
<i>DECODED MARKET DAILY PRICE LIST FOR JORDAN</i>					
DOMESTIC BANK	TRADED VOLUME	OPENING PRICE	CLOSING PRICE	PRICE	PRICE
JORDAN NATIONAL BANK	345,000	185,500	185,000	185,000	185,000
JORDAN NATIONAL BANK	10,294	4,790	4,700	4,700	4,700
MIDDLE EAST INVESTMENT BANK	12,121	1,930	1,960	1,950	1,950
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BANK	24,400	1,900	1,900	1,900	1,900
THE JORDAN BANK	47,880	5,700	5,700	5,700	5,700
JORDAN AGRICULTURE BANK	23,100	3,060	3,080	3,070	3,070
JORDAN CIVIL BANK	71,071	4,450	4,450	4,450	4,450
BUSINESS BANK	10,750	4,540	4,570	4,520	4,520
WHITE EAGLE INVESTMENT FOR HOUSING	7,182	4,500	4,450	4,450	4,450
AMERICAN BANK	37,860	1,850	1,840	1,850	1,850
PHILADELPHIA INVESTMENT BANK	100,200	3,100	3,260	3,270	3,270
GENERAL INSURANCE	22,000	3,430	3,460	3,480	3,480
JORDAN LIFE & ACCIDENT INSURANCE	1,773	2,770	2,770	2,770	2,770
JORDAN POWER ELECTRIC POWER	157,016	2,270	2,280	2,280	2,280
LADID DIVISIONS INDUSTRIES	15,563	1,210	1,210	1,220	1,220
VEHICLES OWNERS FEDERATION	2,378	4,570	4,740	4,770	4,770
JORDAN NATIONAL SHIPPING LINES	1,546	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000
JORDAN TOURISM & SPA COMPLEX	81	8,820	8,810	8,810	8,810
MACHINERY & EQUIPMENT	21,919	3,970	4,000	4,000	4,000
PETRA ENTERPRISES & EQUIPMENT	1,500	1,470	1,470	1,470	1,470
JOORDAN INDUSTRIAL & PETROLEUM LEASING	152	3,100	3,100	3,100	3,100
MACHINERY EQUIPMENT & PETROLEUM TRADING CENTER	2,450	2,450	2,450	2,450	2,450
JOORDAN PETROLEUM & EDUCATION	49,250	2,780	2,830	2,830	2,830
JOORDAN PETROLEUM & EDUCATION	32,850	2,780	2,830	2,830	2,830
JOORDAN PETROLEUM & EDUCATION	5,174	9,800	9,800	9,800	9,800
JOORDAN PETROLEUM & EDUCATION	17,450	7,450	7,500	7,450	7,450
JOORDAN PETROLEUM & EDUCATION	10,523	7,180	7,150	7,150	7,150
JOORDAN PETROLEUM & EDUCATION	59,378	3,420	3,450	3,450	3,450
JOORDAN PETROLEUM & EDUCATION	4,626	2,840	2,860	2,860	2,860
JOORDAN PETROLEUM & EDUCATION	3,113	4,050	4,100	4,200	4,200
JOORDAN PETROLEUM & EDUCATION	20,200	2,400	2,400	2,400	2,400
JOORDAN PETROLEUM & EDUCATION	6,980	2,920	2,940	2,940	2,940
JOORDAN PETROLEUM & EDUCATION	2,430	2,400	2,500	2,500	2,500
JOORDAN PETROLEUM & EDUCATION	55,637	15,400	15,600	15,700	15,700
JOORDAN PETROLEUM & EDUCATION	67,512	10,300	10,000	10,400	10,400
JORDAN MEDICAL CORPORATION	393	1,580	1,570	1,570	1,570
JORDAN PETROLEUM & EDUCATION	294	2,520	2,520	2,520	2,520
JORDAN PETROLEUM & EDUCATION	15,420	5,920	5,100	5,100	5,100
JORDAN PETROLEUM & EDUCATION	21,400	3,420	3,450	3,450	3,450
JORDAN PETROLEUM & EDUCATION	58,584	7,280	7,500	7,640	7,640
JORDAN PETROLEUM & EDUCATION	1,240	2,840	2,860	2,870	2,870
JORDAN PETROLEUM & EDUCATION	14,316	8,100	8,200	8,250	8,250
JORDAN PETROLEUM & EDUCATION	33,508	3,360	3,410	3,330	3,330
JORDAN PETROLEUM & EDUCATION	12,493	3,380	3,410	3,420	3,420
JORDAN PETROLEUM & EDUCATION	186,802	9,350	9,380	9,380	9,380
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>2,027,326</b>				
NO. OF TRADED SHARES IN PARALLEL MARKET	7,054				
TRADED VOLUME IN THE PARALLEL MARKET	1,30				

## Financial Markets Jordan Times

in co-operation with Cairo Amman Bank

### Foreign Exchange Market Summary (December 6 - December 10, 1993)

AMMAN — After closing at 1,7200 marks at the end of the previous week, the U.S. unit depreciated substantially against the mark last week, as it ended 1.34 per cent lower against the mark. Meanwhile, it stabilised against sterling and appreciated 0.60 per cent against the yen.

The dollar depreciated substantially against other major currencies Monday due to long position liquidation and bookgearing before the end of the financial year. Analysts also indicated that failure to break through resistance at 1.73 marks, following the release of better than expected U.S. employment data at the end of previous week, caused a wave of profit taking and reluctance among market participants to take new positions before the end of the financial year. Furthermore, reports indicated that the decline in oil prices and in U.S. Treasury bond yields contributed to the dollar's decline.

The U.S. unit, appreciated slightly against the mark sterling Tuesday, however, while it depreciated against the yen. The dollar's rally was mainly due to technical considerations in the absence of other factors. Comments by representatives of the United States and the European Union concerning the ongoing GATT talks also affected the dollar positively. They indicated that a completion of a world trade accord by the Dec. 15 deadline was possible. On the other hand, the release of U.S. retail sales figures showing a decline of 2.2 per cent in the first week of December compared to November had no effect on the dollar.

The U.S. unit continued its appreciation against other major currencies Wednesday. Comments by President Bill Clinton concerning the North Korean nuclear issue, prompted dollar buying as a safe haven currency. President Clinton indicated that he was unsure that a crisis with North Korea over its nuclear programmes could be avoided. Meanwhile, the dollar was reported to have appreciated to reach 109.15 yen during trading hours, following comments by Mr. Wayne Angel, a U.S. Federal Reserve (Fed) governor, indicating to stimulate domestic demand in Japan. However, the dollar to close at 108.90 yen following clarifications by Mr. Angel that this is not a target set by the U.S. government.

The dollar fluctuated within narrow ranges Thursday. The release of the November Producer Price Index (PPI), which revealed a 0.2 per cent decline, on the back of an equal decline the previous month, caused the dollar to depreciate slightly.

The U.S. unit depreciated substantially against the mark Friday following the release of the November consumer price index, which revealed a rise of 0.2 per cent compared to a 0.4 per cent rise in the previous month. The mild inflation figure, combined with the PPI figure the previous day to cast doubt over the possibility of a near term Fed tightening. But, the release of the University of Michigan Consumer Confidence Index, which showed an increase to 87.7 per cent in December compared to 81.2 per cent in November, blocked the dollar's decline as it closed at 1,6973 marks, its lowest level of the week.

On the other hand, the dollar ended substantially higher against the yen due to a negative Tankan report, which cast doubts on the prospects of Japanese economic growth in the short-term. The dollar thus closed at 109.21 yen, its highest level in the week.

Euro-Currency Interest Rates	3/12/1993				10/12/1993			
	1-Month (%)	1-Year (%)						
U.S. Dollar	3.31	3.75	3.21	3.56				
Sterling Pound	5.19	5.06	5.50	5.00				
Deutsche Mark	6.18	5.18	6.18	5.12				
Swiss Franc	4.50	3.62	4.25	3.62				
French Franc	6.63	5.56	6.68	5.43				
Japanese Yen	2.18	1.75	2.34	1.81				

(perusal bid rates for amounts exceeding 1,000,000 or equivalent)

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin Date: 12/12/1993

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.7000	0.7020
Sterling Pound	1.0450	1.0502
Deutsche Mark	0.4118	0.4139
Swiss Franc	0.4609	0.4833
French Franc	0.1203	0.1209
Japanese Yen	0.6404	0.6456
Dutch Guilder	0.3681	0.3699
Swedish Krona	*****	*****
Italian Lira	0.0419	0.0421
Belgian Franc	*****	*****

Per 100

## World Bank official urges Jordan to press for peace benefits

By Samir Shafiq  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Dr. Attila Karaosmanoglu, the managing director of the world bank, told a group of Jordanian businessmen and officials Saturday night that the economic climate in Jordan was better than that of many countries he told visited.

Dr. Karaosmanoglu said the World Bank had prepared an extensive economic study for the region but were only beginning to look into Jordan's economic role within a peace agreement.

He said that although the World Bank would be helping, the economic drive should depend on local resources and not on left-wing parties.

"We feel besieged by the right and left as both accuse us of either interfering in their internal affairs or in portraying us as the bigger government," he elaborated. "We get criticised if we try to help the poor or if we recommend a structural adjustment programme."

The World Bank executive specified the following three points which he said were highly important for any government to adopt:

1) Non-interference in the economy unless when necessary and under the conviction that market mechanism was not functioning properly.

2) Flexibility.

3) Transparency.

Dr. Karaosmanoglu also advised against subsidies saying such measures largely benefit people who are well off instead of limiting the

benefits to the poor. "Consequently, it is preferable to give the poor direct aid than giving them subsidies," he said.

The world bank executive, who left Jordan Sunday, said he had fruitful discussions with Jordanian officials and noted that Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali expressed interest in having World

Bank assistance to upgrade the performance of the civil service cadres.

According to Dr. Karaosmanoglu, Dr. Majali told him it was difficult to reduce the number of civil servants but the Jordanian government would offset this by maintaining a wage restraint.

## CAUTIONARY NOTICE IN JORDAN

NOTICE is hereby given that Dow Jones & Company Inc., American Corporation located at 200 Liberty Street, New York, New York, 10281 United States of America, are the sole Owners and Proprietors of the Trade Mark:

## Bosnian Serbs have made 'maximum acceptable' concessions — Karadzic

**BELGRADE** (Agencies) — Radovan Karadzic, leader of Bosnia's breakaway Serbs, said Sunday the Muslim-dominated government could expect no more territorial concession from his side, Tanjug News Agency reported.

Speaking on local radio Mr. Karadzic said "the European Union should put pressure on the Croat and Muslim parties because the Serbs have given the maximum (number of concessions) acceptable," the Belgrade-based agency said.

Under a plan to divide Bosnia-Herzegovina into three separate ethnically-based mini-states, the Serbs would retain 52 per cent of territory to 30 per cent for the Bosnian government and 18 per cent for Bosnian Croats.

But Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic is pushing for at least another three to four per cent of territory, mainly in Serb-held parts of eastern Bosnia, before agreeing a peace deal.

Mr. Karadzic's comments came ahead of a Dec. 21 peace talks meeting in Geneva be-

tween the three warring parties to the Bosnia conflict.

The Serb leader said the Muslim side was prepared to split the capital Sarajevo with the Serbs and forgo a proposed period under U.N. protection. However, there was no immediate reaction to his claim from the Bosnian authorities.

Artillery rounds and sniper fire echoed through the Bosnian capital Sarajevo during Saturday night.

Muslim-controlled Bosnian Radio said Sunday morning several people were wounded in the shooting but it gave no precise casualty toll.

Besieging Serbs had pounded the capital with artillery, tank and mortar fire Saturday.

Mr. Karadzic said the Muslims were launching a "major offensive" against Serb-held parts of Sarajevo, the Bosnian Serb News Agency (SRNA) said.

U.N. special human rights envoy Tadeusz Mazowiecki, on a brief visit to central Bosnia, urged the international community to lift an arms embargo against former

Yugoslavia to allow the Muslim-led Bosnian government to defend itself.

Mr. Mazowiecki was due to meet Croat Foreign Minister Mate Granic.

Meanwhile U.S. Vice President Al Gore visited American troops involved in relief efforts in Bosnia Saturday and told them their efforts were serving a good and noble cause.

Standing beside a C-130 U.S. Air Force cargo plane at Rhein-Main Air Base, Mr. Gore told members of the 435th Airlift Wing "our country owes you a great debt of gratitude."

Washington said last month it was allocating an additional \$150 million to Bosnia relief efforts in order to double the amount of supplies being sent there during the harsh winter.

The U.S.-led airdrops began in February after President Bill Clinton failed to persuade European allies to support tougher allied action to end the fighting in the ex-Yugoslav republic.

Mr. Gore left Washington

earlier in the day for the start of an eight-day trip designed to show strong U.S. backing for economic reforms in Russia and other former Soviet republics.

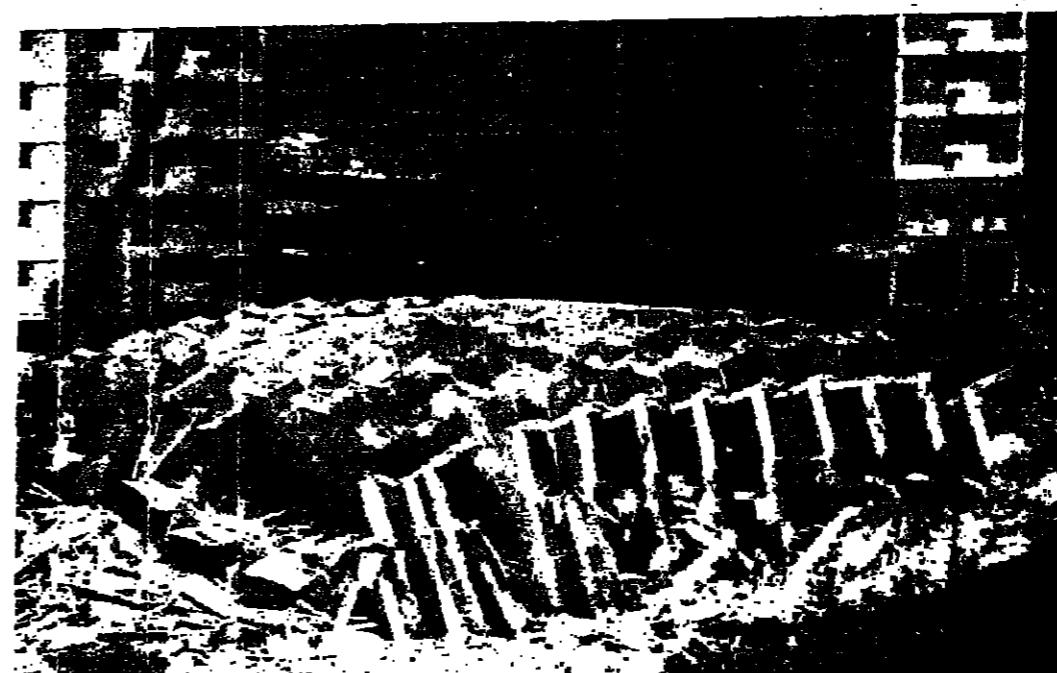
In a separate development, rebel Serbs who have seized a third of Croatia voted Sunday in elections that their leaders say will help the self-proclaimed republic gain international acceptance.

The Republic of Serb Krajina (RSK) was choosing a president and parliament who will seek peace with Croatian authorities and unification with Serbs in Bosnia and the Serbian Republic.

Early voting in Knin, the RSK's fortress capital in the volcanic mountains of southern Croatia, was brisk despite an apathetic election campaign overshadowed by the collapse of living standards.

"We are going to solve our national question," said 59-year-old pensioner Ljilj Ardalic as she cast her ballot. "We will say to the world that we cannot live with the Croats nor they with us."

Mr. Gore left Washington



The aftermath of the apartment block which collapsed on the outskirts of Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia (AFP photo)

## Hopes of finding survivors fade in Malaysia building collapse

**KUALA LUMPUR** (R) — Hopes of finding more survivors from the debris of a collapsed luxury apartment block faded Sunday as rescue workers failed to detect signs of life from more than 50 people feared buried.

"We have heard no sound totally, despite using some sensitive equipment," Hamid Omar, police inspector-general in charge of the rescue operation, told reporters at the site of the 12-storey block, which toppled over after being hit by a landslide.

Housing and Local Government Minister Ting Cheew Peh said at least 54 people, most of them women and children, are now thought to be trapped.

Giving the latest report on those missing, Mr. Ting said the total included nine foreigners — three Filipinos, two Koreans, two Indonesians and two Indians.

**Recession, reforms close in on Hosokawa**

**TOKYO** (R) — Japanese Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa faces his toughest week since taking office, with crucial decisions on rice imports, recession management and political reform amid growing talk of a snap election.

The first three days of this week will decide the fate of the government, political commentator Masayuki Fukuda said Sunday. "There is strong talk of dissolution and general elections."

With the "three Rs" — rice, recession and reforms — becoming ever more entangled in parliament and stubborn resistance coming from the country's two biggest parties, Mr. Hosokawa now has little room to manoeuvre, said Mr. Fukuda, a professor of politics at Hakubu University.

The situation drew a rare outburst from the usually cool prime minister, noted for his trendy suits and Armani ties. "What are you doing? When exactly is the deadline?" a red-faced Hosokawa shouted at Foreign Ministry officials during a discussion of a proposed rice-import deal at a cabinet meeting Saturday, the Tokyo Shimbun said.

On Monday Mr. Hosokawa is expected to announce Japan's final acceptance of a GATT proposal to allow limited rice imports over six years in exchange for postponing a plan to replace the country's blanket ban on imports with tariffs.

The Socialist Party, the biggest in Mr. Hosokawa's fragile coalition, have twice forced him to delay the announcement.

Refusing to temper their opposition to the GATT plan, the Socialists have issued veiled threats that they will quit the coalition if Mr. Hosokawa does not reject the GATT plan.

GATT (the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade) has set Wednesday as the deadline for conclusion of the seven-year-old Uruguay round of global trade talks.

Japan's refusal to lift its ban on commercial rice imports has been a major roadblock to a successful conclusion, along with a European Community-U.S. row over farm subsidies.

While the rice row could bring down the Hosokawa government, the political crisis appears to have come too late to derail Japan's acceptance of partial market opening.

Political analysts said Mr. Hosokawa has no choice but to sign the GATT compromise.

Vast majority of Americans favour gun registration

**NEW YORK** (R) — Americans strongly favour mandatory gun registration but also oppose a ban on handguns, according to a poll released Saturday by Time magazine. A nationwide Time/CNN poll found that 78 per cent favour mandatory registration of all guns while 74 per cent oppose a handgun ban, Time said. The Yankelovich Partners survey of 500 adults was conducted on Dec. 3 before a man went on a shooting spree aboard a New York commuter train, killing five and wounding 18 with a semi-automatic gun. Forty-eight per cent of those polled said they had a gun or guns in their home. But of these individuals, six in 10 said the gun was for sport while just two in 10 said it was for protection from crime. The remainder said the weapon was for another reason or for a combination of reasons. The survey was conducted after congressional approval of the Brady Bill imposing a five-day waiting period on handgun purchases — a step bitterly opposed by the gun lobby.

Taiwan plans tough child-prostitution law

**TAIPEI** (R)

Clients of Taiwanese child prostitutes could be jailed under a tough draft law aimed at protecting children from sexual exploitation.

An Indonesian woman, who was taken to hospital with her baby Saturday, told reporters Sunday that she was trapped for about an hour before firemen spotted her.

Umairah Rashidah Khaoruman, 22, who worked as a maid in the building, said she attracted the attention of firemen by pushing up a stick through the debris to indicate her position.

"We tried to escape but the building shook hard and the floor started cracking," Umairah said. "When I regained consciousness, I found myself in the rubble."

Umairah said she used her body to shield her daughter from the falling debris. She breast-fed her crying daughter until she dozed off.

Principals of prostitutes in Taiwan have faced jail sentences of up to five years, the newspaper said. Traders in child prostitutes and parents who sold their children into prostitution would face even harsher but unspecified sentences, according to the bill. Conventional police crackdowns on vice had failed to solve the problem of some 40,000 to 60,000 prostitutes under the age of 18 in Taiwan. At present police, citing inadequate laws, often release clients of prostitutes without punishment after detaining them briefly or fining them. Local media reports have said some police officers are protecting and even running brothels. Last month more than 10,000 Taiwanese, including interior, justice and finance ministers, jogged past a row of shuttered brothels in Taipei's notorious "red light" district to protest against the island's child prostitution industry. The Garden of Hope Foundation, a charity group fighting child prostitution, has proposed publishing the names, addresses and photographs of child prostitutes in news spapers.

Crying is over as *Evita* heads for big screen

**LOS ANGELES** (R) — Don't cry for *Evita* any longer, says film director Oliver Stone. Stone is teaming up with Disney to produce the long-delayed movie version of the stage musical about Argentina's notorious former first lady.

Stone, the Oscar-winning director of such controversial movies as *JFK*, *Platoon*, and *Born On The Fourth Of July*, said in an interview he has already begun the search for an actress for the title role. "It could take up to a year," he said. "We are looking at known as well as unknown actresses." In 13 years of on-and-off again efforts to bring the Andrew Lloyd Webber-Tim Rice musical to the big screen, consideration has been given to stars including Madonna, Meryl Streep, Barbra Streisand, Bette Midler, Gloria Estefan and Maria Carey. No one has yet been named to play *Evita*'s husband, the late Argentine dictator Juan Peron, although British actor Jeremy Irons had once been rumoured as a possibility.

Stone first expressed interest in *Evita* five years ago before Disney acquired rights to the project but the deal fell through. "I wrote the script, developed it, travelled everywhere... (but) couldn't make it at that time," he said. Disney came close to making *Evita* three years ago with Glenn Gordon Caron directing and Madonna starring, but it aborted production when the project went over budget. "Disney came back to me recently and offered me conditions that were better than ever with more money for it and I got the part," Stone said. The movie, which popularised such songs as *Don't Cry For Me, Argentina*, is budgeted at \$40 million with production set to begin in the next 18 months, the Los Angeles Times reported.

Stone is not expected to turn his attention to *Evita* until after he completes his next movie, *Noriega*, about the deposed Panamanian military leader. His newest film, *Heaven And Earth*, opens on Christmas Day.

## Patten shrugs off China's threats

**HONG KONG** (AFP) — Hong Kong Governor Chris Patten defended Sunday his moves towards democracy for Hong Kong and shrugged off a renewed Chinese threat to take back the British colony ahead of its 1997 handover.

The governor was defending his decision to gazette here last Friday a partial reform package for local elections in 1994 and 1995. The move followed the breakdown of Sino-British talks, begun in April, after 17 fruitless rounds.

"We've made it absolutely plain that we need this partial legislation in order to give ourselves more time" to discuss more "controversial issues" like the Election Committee, functional constituencies and the "through train," which comprises arrangements to ensure that officials elected to posts in 1994-1995 will be able to serve their full terms after the turnover, Mr. Patten said after opening a new park in the colony.

I noted what Chinese officials said yesterday about turmoil and chaos and I want to make an obvious point — there is no turmoil and chaos in Hong Kong," he told journalists here.

"We have here in Hong Kong a stable, prosperous, incredibly successful community, recognised as such by the whole of the world (and) I think by our neighbours in China," Mr. Patten said.

"We want to go on negotiating at the table. We are not going to leave the table. Talking is... better than walking."

"We have here in Hong Kong a stable, prosperous, incredibly successful community, recognised as such by the whole of the world (and) I think by our neighbours in China," Mr. Patten said.

"I think that Chinese leaders and Chinese officials could put their hearts and minds at rest on that particular question."

The warning from the Chinese side came at the end

of a meeting in Beijing of the 57-member Preparatory Working Committee (PWC), a group seen by many as a potential "shadow government" to Britain.

The governor said he had no intention of abandoning talks with China and had gazetted his proposals to start the ball rolling on reform.

The Legislative Council, Hong Kong's mini-parliament, is scheduled Wednesday to consider the proposals, which include lowering the minimum voting age to 18 and enshrining the principle of British-style, single-seat constituencies.

On Saturday Chinese leaders, angered by Mr. Patten's decision to table the legislation without Beijing's blessing, repeated threats made by senior leader Deng Xiaoping in 1982 to take back Hong Kong before 1997 if unspecified disorder broke out in the colony.

However, on Sunday Mr. Patten attempted to allay fears that he would let Hong Kong fall into chaos.

"I noted what Chinese officials said yesterday about turmoil and chaos and I want to make an obvious point — there is no turmoil and chaos in Hong Kong," he told journalists here.

"We have here in Hong Kong a stable, prosperous, incredibly successful community, recognised as such by the whole of the world (and) I think by our neighbours in China," Mr. Patten said.

"I think that Chinese leaders and Chinese officials could put their hearts and minds at rest on that particular question."

The warning from the Chinese side came at the end

Save water .... every drop counts

**Club INTER-CONTINENTAL**  
**Executive Floor**  
**Executive Benefits**  
Club InterContinental offers your guests great privileges and advantages  
We've designated an entire floor with exclusively decorated rooms and suites with private amenities and daily newspapers for our guests. On the same floor there is a private executive lounge with a reception counter to guarantee quick check-in and check-out until 11pm. Complimentary continental breakfast in the executive lounge, beverages including alcoholic drinks, library, fax machine and secretarial services are all part of this great package.  
For further details and reservations at the Club InterContinental call us at Tel.641361

**HOTEL**  
**INTER-CONTINENTAL**  
JORDAN

## IRA kills 2 N. Ireland policemen

**BELFAST** (R) — The IRA said it was responsible for the killing of two policemen in an ambush in a Northern Ireland town early Sunday.

The policemen were in a patrol vehicle when it came under attack at a road junction in Fivemiletown in the southwest of the British ruled province.

The IRA (Irish Republican Army) said in a statement to a local journalist that it carried out the ambush. Police said at least two gunmen were involved.

It brings to 82 the number of people killed in political and sectarian violence in Northern Ireland this year.

The IRA has been waging a guerrilla war to oust Britain from Northern Ireland and Protestant extremists, anxious to keep the province British, have carried out their own campaign of violence.

Britain and Ireland stepped up efforts recently to end the bloodshed, but hopes for an early tell after talks between British Prime Minister John Major and Irish Prime Minister Albert Reynolds in Brussels Saturday.

"I cannot yet be certain that this present exercise will reach a successful conclusion," said Mr. Major.

Mr. Reynolds, who had expressed hopes of peace by Christmas, said after the talks it would be better to await a real breakthrough than rush into a watered-down agreement.

The leaders plan to keep up the talks and may meet in London next week.

Northern Ireland's Protestant majority wants the province to stay British but many Catholics want to unite with the Irish Republic. More than 3,000 people have been killed since the late 1960s in the conflict.

Britain's Mail On Sunday said the Irish government had held months of secret talks with Protestant gunmen in Northern Ireland despite official denials.

London and Dublin declined to comment on the report which, if true, could prove highly embarrassing to the Irish who last month criticised Britain for similar secret contacts with the IRA.

But even if confirmed, it may do no harm to the peace talks.

Mr. Major's embarrassment at the revelation of Britain's secret talks, which he had denied, faded after most parliamentarians seemed to approve of the contacts.

The Mail On Sunday said Irish Foreign Minister Dick Spring sent officials to meet members of the outlawed Ulster Volunteer Force, a ruthless guerrilla group determined to keep Northern Ireland British.

Mr. Major, who has relied on Protestant politicians to boost his slim majority in parliament, and Mr. Reynolds, who must deliver an accord acceptable to Irish nationalists, are trying to find a formula that will persuade the IRA and their Protestant foes it is worth laying down arms.

They were given one boost when Protestant extremists said it was time "the shameful scoring of the past" was left behind. Taken at face value, this could mean an end to horrific "tit-for-tat" violence that in October alone took 27 lives.

# Sports

## Sao Paulo grab chances to beat Milan

TOKYO (R) — Brazil's Sao Paulo won club soccer's Intercontinental Cup for the second successive year Sunday, beating AC Milan of Italy 3-2 in a scrappy game at Japan's National Stadium.

Though Milan dominated much of the play, the Brazilians made the best of their opportunities in a match that French referee Joel Quiniou stopped frequently for minor infringements.

"Milan played with good rhythm, but we came out better in the result," 38-year-old man of the match Toninho Cerezo told a news conference afterwards.

Sao Paulo finished the first half from a Palhinha goal after 19 minutes, when he connected with a low cross and put the ball away from the edge of the six-yard box.

It was the Brazilians' only real opportunity of the half, and they spent much of the time frustrating the Italian attackers with tight marking at the back.

They had some luck too, when Daniele Massaro fired a thundering volley against the bar from outside the penalty area, and again when goalkeeper Zetti scrambled to save a Jean-Pierre Papin header with his left foot.

Milan seemed to find their form in the second half and appeared set for a comeback when Massaro volleyed home from close range in the opening minutes.

But Sao Paulo took the lead again after 59 minutes, when Toninho Cerezo converted his team's second scoring chance into its second goal with another close-range strike.

When French ace Papin headed an equaliser in the 81st minute the game appeared headed for extra time, but Sao Paulo clinched the match with just four minutes to go.

Muller charged the penalty area off a quick break, pursued by a Milan defender. When goalkeeper Schäferio Rossi came out too early and fumbled the clearance, the fast-paced forward nipped past for the winner.

Sao Paulo's veteran manager Teles Santana admitted his team had had the best of the luck.

"After Milan equalised, we expected to go into extra time," he said.

"We were lucky to score that goal," he said of Muller's winner. "It was partly a mistake by the Milan defence — the goalkeeper came out too quickly."

Santana came to Japan this year widely tipped for the job of head coach of Japan's national team, but the talks appear to have fallen through because of the amount of money he was demanding.

AC Milan's manager Fabio Capello took the defeat hard.



Cardamone retains boxing title

BERCK, France (R) — Italy's Agostino Cardamone outpointed French challenger Frederic Seiller Saturday to retain his European middleweight title and an unbeaten record. The 28-year-old Cardamone was given a unanimous verdict by the three judges after a grueling fight which left both boxers with barely the strength to trade punches in the closing rounds. Two judges awarded the bout 117-114 in the Italian's favor and the third gave him the verdict by

115-113. Cardamone, who took the European title in June, has won all 20 of his professional bouts, with seven inside the distance. "He was strong throughout the fight," the 29-year-old Seiller said. "I was feeling very fit," the 29-year-old Seiller said. "I was feeling very weak at the end." The photograph shows Cardamone (right) in action against Seiller (AFP photo).

## Motivation beats off foreign raiders

HONG KONG (AFP) — Motivation, starting at 11-1, completed the double for local horses with a resounding victory in the Hong Kong International Cup at the Sha Tin Racecourse here Sunday.

Under light rain, the Argentine-bred horse was perfectly ridden by Australian jockey John Marshall.

With a middling early speed, Marshall took the initiative and raced outside the early leader, the French entry Marilodo.

"They weren't going very hard and it gave me the chance to sit outside the leader. It

seems a long straight when you're trying to hold on but the horse certainly gave a lot," said Marshall.

The favourite River Verdon (9-2) ran on strongly from well back in the field to finish fourth just behind Stark South who finished hard over the last 100 metres.

The heavily backed Kiwi Golfer (10-1 into 6-1) raced in third place to the corner but failed to quicken.

The strongly fancied Verne (6-1) was gallant in defeat and battled on strongly after looking in with a big chance at the 200m.

She dashed clear but was unable to understand the challenge from Winning Partners.

Earlier in the day the Nevelle Beag trained Winning Partners (3-2) brought a smile to favourite backers with a gutsy win in the Hong Kong International Bowl.

Superbly ridden by Mick Kinane, the local hero caught the gallant British filly Marina Park close to home to win by a neck.

Marina Park had raced on the fence behind the Japanese entrant Tomoe Regent to the corner before dashing to the super-giant slalom in the French resort of Val D'Isere Sunday.

Austrian Mader glided smoothly through the 47 gates of the Orelle-Killy Piste to claim his second victory this

## Al Faisali widens lead to 3 point at top of Jordan soccer standings

By Aleen Bannayan  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Monday's match in the 10th week of soccer's first division championship might well affect the top four teams eyeing the precious title. Former titleholders Al Wihdat clash against Al Hussein; second-placed Al Ahli face Al Arabi; and Al Jazireh, now in sixth place, meet Al Yarmouk.

During past week, titleholders Al Faisali held on to their top ranking after a 4-0 win over Al Yarmouk. Striker Juries Ladros broke the season's record for fastest goal when he gave his team the lead in the first minute.

The goal stunned Al Yarmouk who could not effectively attack their opponents goal as Subhi Suleiman netted in the second goal in the 29th minute.

Al Faisali, scored their two other goals by Jaafar Hammad and Firas Khalaleh in the 63rd and 67th minutes as Al Yarmouk finished the week in last place.

Third-placed Al Hussein could not advance their standing after they were held to a 1-1 draw with lowly Sabah.

Sabah's Mohammad Odeh gave his team the lead in the 29th minute, but Al Hussein's Aref Hussein managed to equalise and saved his team from an unexpected loss when

he scored in the 56th minute.

Meanwhile, Al Jazireh scored their second win with a stunning 4-0 win over Al Baqaa.

They scored two goals in the 14th and 26th minutes to end the first half 2-0, while Al Baqaa lost a one definite scoring chance.

Al Jazireh, playing with obvious confidence and determination to advance their standing, relentlessly attacked their opponent's goal and netted in the 47th and 84th minutes.

Al Faisali captured seventh place this week after a 2-1 win over Al Arabi who fell to fifth place.

Al Arabi were the first to score by Ahmad Subhi in the 28th minute. However Fubeis secured the win after two first-half goals in the 37th and 40th minutes.

Al Wihdat jumped to fourth place after a 1-1 draw with Al Ahli.

Mohammad Rajab scored for Al Wihdat from a penalty shot in the 54th minute after Firas Fawzi was tackled in the box.

Al Ahli's Nart Yadaj managed to score the equaliser in the 69th minute and enabled his team to hold on to second place for now.

Al Ramtha scored the most convincing win the week when they handed Al Qadis-

sieh their second consecutive loss.

Although Al Qadisieh led 2-0 after goals by Mustafa Adam and Ismail Awadat, Al Ramtha scored their first goal from a penalty kick by Mohammad Al Khazali in the 47th minute.

Al Ramtha and Al Hussein were also fined JD 500 for first instances of the same offence.

Al Faisali's Moussa Awad, Al Qadisieh's Ahmad Shiewi and Al Baqaa's Abdul Rahman Khader were given a three-match suspension and fined JD 50 each for unlawful tackles and obscene language.

The JSF also announced results in the 1993 youth competitions:

Al Wihdat clinched the titles in the under-15, under-17 and under-19 competitions. Al Arabi, Al Awdeh, and Al Hussein were the runners up in the respective tournaments.

## Standings after 9th week

Team	P	W	GD	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Faisali	8	6	1	1	18	3	21	
Al Ahli	9	4	—	3	2	15	8	18
Hussein	9	4	2	2	1	10	4	16
Wihdat	9	4	2	1	2	8	6	16
Arabi	9	3	—	3	3	12	14	15
Jazireh	8	2	—	3	3	11	12	12
Fubeis	8	3	1	1	3	7	11	11
Ramtha	5	3	—	1	1	9	4	11
Qadisieh	9	1	2	2	4	6	10	9
Baqaa	8	2	—	5	5	13	7	7
Sabah	9	1	1	1	6	7	14	6
Yarmouk	7	2	—	5	5	15	6	6

## Mader continues fine start to skiing season

winter following a giant slalom in Park City last month.

"I knew I was in good shape but I didn't expect to win here," Mader said. "I like this course which is quite demanding and the conditions were ideal."

Mader made a cautious start and then moved up a gear in the mid-section to clock a final time of one minute 28.25 seconds.

"I really wanted to win for Ales and I took too many risks," he said.

Young American Tommy Moe showed he had plenty to offer by taking third place 0.36 of a second behind the winner.

"I'm delighted," said the 23-year-old from Alaska. "I think this is going to be a great season for me. People have been waiting for me for quite a while and now it's time to win races."

**FIRE WOOD FOR SALE**  
AVAILABLE NOW: class(A)Fire Wood (OLIVE+OAK)  
SPEED IGNITION + FAIR PRICES  
AL-JAMMAL STORES - opposite to Alba House - KING HUSSINE'S Medical city road (tel.: 1840829)

**TO SUIT ALL BUDGETS**  
VILLA FOR RENT & LOTS OF FLATS, WITH OR WITHOUT FURNITURE  
Please Call JORDAN PROPERTY CONSULTANTS Tel: 829882/829883

**FOR RENT**  
**Fully Furnished Luxury**  
3 bedroom flat. Telephone - 2 glassed balconies, separate heating, solar heating system. Location: Garden Street, near Waha, behind Hassan Commercial Centre.  
Telephone: 819299 681881

**12 DAYS LEFT**  
for your Xmas presents.  
the ideal meaningful present is yours at:  
**DAJANI**  
JEWELLERS  
Amra Hotel  
6th Circle - Amman.

**Furnished Floor in a Villa For Rent**  
Consists of 3 bedrooms, salon, dining, sitting, 2 bathrooms, spacious kitchen, maid's room, laundry room, separate central heating with very good furniture. Location: Mari Al Hammam, Alia Housing neighbourhood, formerly the Royal Command and Staff Academy Street.  
Please call tel: 711436

**CAR FOR SALE**  
Renault 25 - V-6, automatic, model 1990  
DUTY UNPAID, Blue metallic  
Options: Air condition, climate control, ergonomic chairs, electric chairs, electric mirrors, radio Renault (with code), alarm system, remote control of electric doorlock and alarm system, fuel management computer, voice warning system.  
For more information, call: 696240/1 (Office) 664906 (Residence)

**benetton** O12  
For Adults & Kids  
Announcing a 15% discount through the period of xmas & New year  
Welcome to Our Stores  
Housing Bank Complex — Shmeisani — 1st Floor (Kids) Tel. 673092  
Ground Floor (Adults) Tel. 672927  
Girls & Guys — Grindly Bank Bldg. — Shmeisani — Tel. 684916  
Jabal Al-Hussein, Opp. Ashraha Complex — Tel. 673078

15 %  
Also announcing that special models for xmas & new year are available

**FOR RENT**  
Modern furnished apartments  
One bedroom — Two bedrooms — Three bedrooms.  
C.H. and Telephones.  
Location: Shmeisani — near Bird's Garden.  
Jabal Amman - Khalid Hospital  
Owners tel.: 667862 - 642351

**DUTY UNPAID FOR SALE BY TENDER**  
1989 Austin Montego 2.0L May fair saloon. Black. Radio cassette. Front electric windows, A/C, 110,000 km. Excellent condition.  
Sealed bids for purchase to be sent to British Embassy not later than December 20, 1993.  
For appointment to view contact: 823100 / Ext. 212.

**GOREN BRIDGE**  
WITH OMAR SHARIF & TANNIA HIRSCH  
©1992 Tribune Media Services, Inc.

**MORE THAN ONE CAN SPARE**  
Both vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH	* K 10 7	V K 9 4	♦ A 6 5	♦ K 2 3 2
EAST	* J 4 2	* A Q 8 3	V 8 6 3	V 5
SOUTH	* K 10 8 7 2	♦ Q 9 4	K 10 8 7 2	♦ Q 10 7 6 5
WEST	* K 9 6 5	V A Q J 10 7 2	Q 3	A 4

The bidding: South-West: North-East: 1 ♠ Pass; 2 NT Pass; 3 ♠ Pass; 4 ♠ Pass; Pass. Opening lead: Six of ♠.

Some bridge players are miserly with their cards. They hate playing anything but their lowest card to a trick they can't win. On defense, that means their partners will often have to work without any help of a signal. But being overly profligate with high cards can be as costly. This hand is from Bill Root's upcoming book on defense.

Harrison Ford — in **PATRIOT GAMES**  
Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30

**TONDAY**

**Cinema** Tel.: 634144  
**CONCORD**  
**CONCORD '1'** Clint Eastwood — in **IN THE LINE OF FIRE**  
Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30  
**CONCORD '2'** Kim Basinger — in **Two Hot To Handle**  
Shows: 3:15, 6, 8:15, 10:15

**Cinema** Tel.: 677420  
**PLAYING WITH THE VILLAINS**  
Arabic  
Shows: 12:30, 3:15, 5, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30

**Cinema** Tel.: 699238  
**PLAZA**

**Cinema** Tel.: 675571  
**Nabil Al Mashini Theatre**  
presents a play entitled: **Al Ilm Nuron**  
A popular political comedy  
Actors: Abeer Issa, Deoud Jalajel, Hassan Al Shaer, Fued Shomali  
In addition to other comedians  
Every night at 8:15  
Tickets are sold all day

**Cinema** Tel.: 625153  
**AHLAN THEATRE**  
The political comedy  
**WELCOME ARAB SUMMIT**  
Daily 8:30 p.m.  
The theatre closes Saturday and Sunday  
English synopsis available

# Russia holds historic vote; many stay home

MOSCOW (Agencies) — Russians voted Sunday to elect their first post-Soviet parliament and render a verdict on President Boris Yeltsin's constitution, but early turnout figures showed millions stayed home and snubbed the poll.

Mr. Yeltsin was among the first voters to turn up at a Moscow polling station near his apartment and cast his ballot in favour of the draft charter that would boost his powers and establish a Western-style system of government.

"I am certain that the constitution will be approved by all," Mr. Yeltsin told reporters as he had his wife Naina entered polling station number 55-56 some 20 minutes after it opened.

The Russian leader expressed confidence that voters would elect "a better parliament" than the former old-guard legislature that he dissolved 10 weeks ago in a shock decision that set off a revolt crushed by the military on October 4.

About 107 million Russians were eligible to vote in the referendum and in the poll to elect the new federal assembly comprised of a 450-seat state Duma and of a 178-member Federation Council.

Under referendum rules, at least 50 per cent of the registered electorate must take part for the plebiscite to be considered valid.

According to officials from a presidential centre analysing the results, turnout stood at about 50 per cent in the Far East when polls closed at 10:00 p.m.

local time there.

In the Far East city of Khabarovsk, the chairman of the local elections commission, Mikhail Sleptsov, appeared on television one hour before poll closure and appealed to voters to go to the polls.

The elections were:

The key Russians voted for candidates to both houses of the new parliament and for a new constitution. President Yeltsin ordered the election in September after dissolving the previous parliament, which had opposed his reforms.

The parliament is called the Federal Assembly. It consists of two houses. The State Duma is the lower house, while the Federation Council is the upper house.

The State Duma has 450 members, of which 225 will be elected according to party lists. The other 225 will be elected in geographical constituencies.

The Federation Council has 176 members, two from each of Russia's 88 republics and regions.

Members of parliament normally will serve four-year terms, but the first parliament elected will serve only for two years because Mr. Yeltsin says Russia is in a period of transition.

The new constitution replaces 1978 document adopted under Soviet leader Leonid Brezhnev and amended hundreds of times in recent years by Russian lawmakers. Key provisions include: Right to private ownership of land, freedom of trade and freedom of movement, forbids cen-

sorship and strengthens powers of the president.

Russian ultra-nationalist Vladimir Zhirinovsky claimed success for his party in the elections, saying that only "government falsification" would prevent his group from toppling the polls.

"We will win this election. I must be the first but the government party is making the first (Russia's Choice), and the second our party," he told Reuters.

"I am the first, but by falsification I will be the second."

Mr. Zhirinovsky, tipped by recent opinion polls to win a big share of the vote, said victory would enable his party to carry out its election programme, halting aid to other countries and reversing plans to convert the military sector to civilian use.

"If we win this election we have an opportunity to... ameliorate the condition of life of our people and... to get peace with European countries."

Mr. Zhirinovsky, the leader of the Russia's right-wing Liberal Democratic Party (LDPR), has demanded the restoration of Russian rule throughout the territory of the former Soviet Union and draconian measures to restore public order.

He has won popular support through a highly effective television campaign, raising alarm in the reformist camp, other former Soviet republics and the West. Opinion polls say the LDPR may come second or even first of the 13 parties in the contest.

The new constitution replaces 1978 document adopted under Soviet leader Leonid Brezhnev and amended hundreds of times in recent years by Russian lawmakers. Key provisions include: Right to private ownership of land, freedom of trade and freedom of movement, forbids cen-

## King, Crown Prince congratulate South African Nobel laureates

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein and His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Sunday sent cables of congratulations to South Africa's President F.W. de Klerk and African National Congress (ANC) leader Nelson Mandela over the 1993 Nobel Peace Prize awarded to them.

"In offering my sincere felicitations, I should like to recall that it was largely due to your courage and foresight, that the necessary decision to dismantle the apartheid regime were taken," the King told Mr. De Klerk.

"I am the first, but by falsification I will be the second."

Mr. Zhirinovsky, tipped by recent opinion polls to win a big share of the vote, said victory would enable his party to carry out its election programme, halting aid to other countries and reversing plans to convert the military sector to civilian use.

"If we win this election we have an opportunity to... ameliorate the condition of life of our people and... to get peace with European countries."

Mr. Zhirinovsky, the leader of the Russia's right-wing Liberal Democratic Party (LDPR), has demanded the restoration of Russian rule throughout the territory of the former Soviet Union and draconian measures to restore public order.

He has won popular support through a highly effective television campaign, raising alarm in the reformist camp, other former Soviet republics and the West. Opinion polls say the LDPR may come second or even first of the 13 parties in the contest.

The new constitution replaces 1978 document adopted under Soviet leader Leonid Brezhnev and amended hundreds of times in recent years by Russian lawmakers. Key provisions include: Right to private ownership of land, freedom of trade and freedom of movement, forbids cen-

vination, and I should like to avail myself of this opportunity to express the confident hope that under your wise leadership the people of South Africa would move to greater democracy and prosperity."

In his cable to Mr. Mandela, the King said:

"Your receipt of this distinguished prize is a fitting tribute to your qualities of integrity and perseverance in upholding an axiom that all men are born equal and are entitled to dignity."

"This axiomatic truth is proclaimed in the Holy Koran in the following words: 'We have bestowed dignity on the children of Adam.' We rejoice in the fact the long years you spent in a just struggle to uphold this universal value have born fruit in South Africa."

Crown Prince Hassan said in his cable to Mr. De Klerk:

"This fitting tribute to your efforts to move South Africa along the path of democracy is a cause of celebration for all those who cherish the concepts of pluralism and striving for fair and peaceful solutions to seemingly intractable problems."

It is also a recognition of your courage and foresight."

The Crown Prince told Mr. Mandela:

"Your long struggle and perseverance under conditions of extreme adversity bears testimony to the strength of your commitment to the lofty ideals that we also share and uphold foremost among these is the innate equality of all men and women and their inalienable right to human dignity."

## Forty Palestinian guards cross bridge today in symbolic move

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Forty Palestinians trained as security and personal guards in Jordan cross the River Jordan Monday in a symbolic event marking the beginning of the implementation of the Sept. 13 accord between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

Apart from the early morning crossing across the King Hussein Bridge, the PLO is not planning any other event in Jordan to mark the occasion, against an almost foregone conclusion that the scheduled beginning of the Israeli pullout from the Gaza Strip and Jericho was going to be delayed, PLO officials said.

They said no orders had been received from the Tunis headquarters of the PLO to move units of the Palestine Liberation Army (PLA) trained as policemen to the Jordan Valley ahead of deployment in the areas expected to be evacuated by the Israelis in the four-month withdrawal.

The batch of 40 is the latest group of Palestinian residents of the occupied territories to receive training as security guards in Jordan, they said. The group arrived here from the West Bank several weeks ago for training at the Kingdom's facilities, they said.

Like the previous groups,

the new trainees also will be assigned to protect strategic Palestinian buildings and personalities, including some members of the Palestinian delegation to peace talks with Israel, the PLO officials said.

In the meantime, all other plans for the deployment for the larger 15,000-strong Palestinian police force remained frozen pending the outcome of Sunday's meeting Cairo between Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and PLO Chairman Yasir Arafat, they said.

Earlier plans had called for moving some 1,500 members of the Badr Brigade of the PLA trained as policemen in Jordan to the Jordan Valley along with up to 1,300 members of the Al Quds Brigade based in Iraq ready to move to Jericho.

A similar number was expected to gather in Rafah on the Egyptian border ahead of deployment in the Gaza Strip.

The Al Quds members, who have also undergone basic police training in Iraqi facilities, were to have arrived here on Dec. 5 for a two or three-day stay at Mafraq before moving to the Jordan Valley.

As things stood Sunday, the units remained in Iraq, ready to move as soon as the PLO leadership gave the green light, the officials said.

It appeared that out of a total of 2,500 PLA soldiers in

Iraq, only 1,300 opted to exercise their option to join the police force and move into the occupied territories, other sources said.

"The rest are married to Iraqi nationals and settled in Iraq," said one source.

"Those among them who might have wanted to move out of Iraq appeared to have changed their mind after the recent developments at the U.N.," added the source.

The source was referring to the possibility of a lifting of the international sanctions against Iraq in the first half of 1994 after Baghdad recently agreed to long-term monitoring of its arms development programmes as part of the Gulf war ceasefire conditions.

Living conditions in Iraq are expected to improve dramatically with the lifting of the sanctions, which include a ban on Iraqi oil exports, the mainstay income of Baghdad, and this could have encouraged some of the PLA soldiers to exercise their option of settling down in Iraq rather than facing the uncertainties of autonomy in the occupied territories, the source noted.

In the meantime, PLO officials said they were awaiting Israeli permission for the families of the PLA soldiers to enter the occupied territories. All relevant details have been given to the Israeli authorities, they said.

## Column 8

Diana would like to re-marry, says friend

LONDON (R) — A friend of Princess Diana was quoted to a British Sunday newspaper as saying he thought she would like to re-marry and have more children. "She's a young attractive woman and I see no reason why she shouldn't marry again, although I think only a few men could cope with the pressure of the attention," he said.

Arab diplomats said the two leaders were coordinating their countries' position following U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's peace mission to the region last week.

Mr. Christopher, who did not visit Lebanon but spoke to Prime Minister Rafik Al Hariri on the telephone, announced that bilateral Arab-Israeli peace talks would resume in Washington by February.

The head of the Syrian delegation to the bilaterals, Murras Al Alfal, was in Cairo on Sunday to discuss plans to restart the talks, which have been stalled since September.

Egyptian sources said the visit was not connected with the meeting the same day in Cairo between Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) leader Yasser Arafat.

Mr. Al Alfal was to meet Arab League Secretary-General Esamat Abdul Meguid, the official Middle East News Agency (MENA) reported.

The bilateral negotiations were suspended after the Israeli-PLO autonomy accord was signed on Sept. 13, amid Syrian criticism on the grounds that it weakened the joint Arab stand in negotiations with the Jewish state.

Presidental spokesman Joubra Kouriel told Reuters that Vice-President Abdul Halim Khaddam was present at the Assad-Hariri meeting.

Syria's main foreign power broker in Lebanon backs Beirut's demands for implementation of U.N. Resolution 425 calling for Israeli withdrawal from South Lebanon.

Mr. Christopher also announced that Syria had promised to help determine the fate of six Israeli soldiers missing in Lebanon since the mid-1980s.

He had said Mr. Assad's pledge was an "important humanitarian gesture" in the peace talks.

Meanwhile, Israeli army officers met the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in Tel Aviv on Sunday, a senior official said amid hopes of a prisoner exchange in Lebanon.

LONDON (R) — British Prime Minister John Major and government officials have stepped in to support heir to the throne Prince Charles against church-led criticism that divorce or infidelity would make him morally unfit to be king. The Sunday Express newspaper said Mr. Major had mobilised his colleagues to scotch suggestions that succession could leap-frog to Prince William, 12, because of the tarnished image of his 45-year-old father, Prince Charles.

"He (Charles) will be our king. He has prepared himself for the role perhaps more conscientiously than any in the long line of his predecessors," one government minister, William Waldegrave, wrote in the Sunday Telegraph. Questions about Prince Charles' future sprung up last week after his estranged wife said she was quitting public life, in a move some royal observers saw as Prince Charles' work. Her announcement seemed a sure sign the couple were heading for divorce and Church of England leaders raised doubts about having as king a man who has declined to deny rumours of an affair with brigadier's wife Camilla Parker Bowles.

"Diana's exit seemed to set a fair wind for Charles. But he did not bargain for a national debate about his moral suitability to be king," the Sunday Times commented. New polls Sunday showed roughly half of leading Anglican clergymen would oppose Prince Charles as monarch if the allegations of adultery during his 12-year marriage to Princess Diana proved true. But 71 per cent of 507 clergymen questioned by the News Of The World said divorce should not stop him succeeding his mother Queen Elizabeth when she dies, or abdicates.

**Michael Jackson reportedly back in California**

LOS ANGELES (R) — Pop superstar Michael Jackson, who faces accusations of child sex molestation, was reported to be back home in southern California Saturday after leaving a European retreat where he was treated for drug abuse.

KCBS-TV, an affiliate of the CBS network, said Jackson landed in Santa Barbara Airport Friday aboard a chartered Boeing 727 jet, accompanied by two boys from New Jersey, aged eight and 11. Jackson was then driven to his Neverland Valley estate about 40 miles (64 km) away, the television report said. Jackson left the plane wearing a red jacket, red mask, and black pants. Jackson has been accused in a civil lawsuit of sexually molesting a 12-year-old boy over a four-month period last year. The case is scheduled to be heard in March and Jackson has denied the allegations. KCBS reported Jackson's return with attribution, saying Jackson entered America shortly after his lawyers struck a deal with prosecutors.

## Arafat to seek \$1.5 b from Britain for 'Ottoman gold'

## Iran rebels kill Turkish diplomat 'by mistake'

at the beginning of his tour. A British Foreign Office official said that when Junior Foreign Office Minister Douglas Hogg saw Mr. Arafat in Tunis recently, the issue was not raised.

A Palestine trust fund and a currency board were set up after Britain withdrew from Palestine in 1948 to try to settle any outstanding claims on London.

"We are working on the basis that if Mr. Arafat wanted to raise it, we would look into it," a Foreign Office spokesman said.

Britain was "keeping an open mind" about the question, he added.

The PLO and Israel signed an agreement on Sept. 13 to introduce Palestinian self-rule in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank town of Jericho.

The Sunday Times, quoting Palestinian sources, said Mr. Arafat intended to plead "at the highest levels" for the gold to be returned.

Mr. Arafat will meet some of the country's leading political and religious leaders.

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — Iran's armed opposition Mujahedeen-e-Khalq said Sunday it shot dead a Turkish diplomat in Baghdad "by mistake" and blamed Tehran for the killing.

Iran's ambassador to Turkey, Rafid Dahman Al Takriti, said members of the Mujahedeen-e-Khalq had been arrested for Saturday's murder of Caglar Yucel, an administrative attaché at the Turkish embassy.

Huseyin Kerimoglu, a telecommunications technician at the embassy, was slightly wounded and taken to hospital after the Mujahedeen opened fire on their car.

The group blamed the Iranian authorities, who had shown "ill-will in not informing the buyer of the fact that the car should never enter the security limits of the Mujahedeen."

Mujahedeen statement cited previous cases in which it said Iranian diplomats had attacked Mujahedeen in Baghdad. It said Mujahedeen leader Rajavi had sent a telegram of regret to the president of Turkey.

The guards fired at the car as it neared the Mujahedeen headquarters in Baghdad because the vehicle had Iranian diplomatic number-plates, it said.

The group said the car had been sold to the Turkish embassy without a warning that it was on a list of number-plates barred from approaching the Mujahedeen offices because of past attacks on the organisation.

"The car's occupants did not pay attention to the signal and warning of the security guards," the statement said.

The group blamed the Iranian authorities, who had shown "ill-will in not informing the buyer of the fact that the car should never enter the security limits of the Mujahedeen."

While Mr. Aspin said the soldiers may not be back in the United States with their families in time for the Christmas and New Year's holidays, it will be futile to try and work out a plan without the presence of SNA," he said.

"Those who have refused to sign the current supplementary agreement to last March's Addis Ababa accord have no backing of the Somali people. It will be futile to try and work out a plan without the presence of SNA," he said.

Gen. Aideed said his SNA enjoys the support of "75 per cent of the Somali people."

"Those who have refused to sign the current supplementary agreement to last March's Addis Ababa accord have no backing of the Somali people. It will be futile to try and work out a plan without the presence of SNA," he said.

"Between a quarter and a third of them will be out of Somalia" by Dec. 25, Mr. Aspin said on NBC-TV's "Meet the Press."

While Mr. Aspin said the soldiers may not be back in the United States with their families in time for the Christmas and New Year's holidays, it will be futile to try and work out a plan without the presence of SNA," he said.

"Between a quarter and a third of them will be out of Somalia" by Dec. 25, Mr. Aspin said on NBC-TV's "Meet the Press."